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FIRST PHASE OF VOTING

J&K citizens to vote in Assembly polls today

NEWS » PAGE 13

IRAN'S AMBASSADOR INJURED

Pagers of Hezbollah members explode

WORLD » PAGE 16

GOODS EXPORTS SHRINK

Gold tide lifts imports to record $64.36 bn

BUSINESS » PAGE 15

DATA POINT

'Post-1991, southern States rose as leaders'

Per capita income surged significantly

OPINION » PAGE 11

CONTINENTAL KINGS

India pips China, bags its fifth Asian CT title

SPORT » PAGE 17

Cabinet nod for ₹11,770 cr. projects in KK region

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The State Cabinet, which met in Kalaburagi on Tuesday, approved 46 projects worth a total ₹11,770 crore exclusively for the development of the Kalyana Karnataka region.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who chaired the special Cabinet meeting to coincide with Kalyana Karnataka Liberation Day, said that among the major decisions was a ₹7,200 crore drinking water project for all the villages in Bidar and Kalaburagi, from Basavasagar Reservoir (Narayanpur dam), and upgradation of Bidar and Raichur towns to city municipalities.

Regarding the drinking water project, the Chief Minister said, "The idea is to implement the project in collaboration with the Union government.

RELATED REPORT ON
» PAGE 6

Kejriwal exits, Atishi to become Delhi CM

Atishi says her priority is to ensure Kejriwal's return to the post and calls him 'guru'; BJP says AAP is trying to give itself a makeover but in vain

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Atishi is set to become Delhi's third woman Chief Minister, with party chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal submitting his resignation to Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) V.K. Saxena on Tuesday.

Ms. Atishi, who was elected leader of the AAP legislature party earlier in the day, submitted her request to the L-G to stake claim to form the government. Currently, she is a Cabinet Minister and holds many important portfolios, including Revenue, Education, and Public Works Department.

Earlier in the day, calling Mr. Kejriwal her "guru", Ms. Atishi told the media that "there is only one Chief Minister of Delhi and the CM's name is Arvind Kejriwal". She underlined that she would be the Chief Minister only till the next Assembly election. The election is due in February but the AAP has requested the Election Commission to hold it along with Maharashtra polls in November.

Ms. Atishi said the party's and her priority would be to make sure that Mr. Kejriwal would be elected Chief Minister again. On Sunday, Mr. Kejriwal announced that he would resign as Chief Minister and he would not return until he got the people's mandate as a certificate of his honesty.

Stage set: Atishi addressing the media after a meeting of the AAP legislative party in New Delhi on Tuesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

SC hits out at Bengal govt. plan to deploy private guards at hospitals

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday slammed the West Bengal government for its plan to hire private security guards to protect women medical students, doctors and staff in government hospitals under the 'Rattirer Sathi' scheme.

The Bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud pointed out that the main accused, Sanjoy Roy, in the rape and murder of a junior doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, was also a volunteer. "Are you again going to have another set of contractual people trained by the police for just seven days now walking all around hospitals?"

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGE 12

SC freezes illegal 'bulldozer' action till hearing on Oct. 1

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday froze illegal bulldozer demolitions across the country till October 1, drawing attention to reports of "glorification, grandstanding and even justifications" of the razing of private homes and properties of undertrials and their immediate family members.

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan said the authorities had continued with the demolitions despite a Supreme Court order on September 2 that the law did not permit the destruction of homes and properties of accused awaiting trial, or even of convicts. The court had observed that the authorities would not be permitted to bulldoze the laws of the land.

"There has been glorification, grandstanding and justification of bulldozers after September 2," Justice Viswanathan addressed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Justice Gavai said that the bulldozer culture had continued even after the court decided to frame guidelines against illegal demolitions.

It was time to "stay your axe", Justice Gavai said.

The SC's order extends till the next date of hearing to set guidelines for demolitions.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

NEARBY

Mpox: KIA takes precautionary measure

BENGALURU
International passengers arriving at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) have to go past thermal scanners owing to the current global mpox situation. » Page 9

Rebellion surfaces again in State BJP

BENGALURU
The rebellion in the Opposition BJP in the State has again come to the fore at a crucial time when the party is keen to up the ante against the Congress government and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

» Page 6

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 9

Pakistan hockey's long and arduous journey towards redemption and past glory

Among the many factors that point towards the downward spiral since the Asian Games gold in 2010, the structural changes in the feeder system and frequent changes in coaching staff stand out, the ACT bronze might be the first step of a nation trying to dominate a sport it once had

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Uthra Ganesan

For a team with a glorious past rivalled only by India, Pakistan hockey's slide over the last two decades doesn't seem to abate. The occasional flash of success and individual brilliance notwithstanding, Pakistan hockey's struggles since it won the Asian Games gold in 2010 - its last major medal - have only worsened.

Factionalism, mismanagement and lack of funds have further pushed it down, the team languishing at 16th position at the moment, having hit an all-time low of 20th in the world two years ago. The ongoing Asian Champions Trophy is its first major tournament in a long time but it came with its own share of trouble that saw Roelant Oltmans refusing to travel for the competition and Tahir Zaman stepping in at the last minute.

The 55-year old, an FIH master coach with over 20 years of experience across the world, joined the team only on the eve of its first game in Hulunbuir and is aware of the long road ahead. "I am only trying to analyse and understand the players' performance and trying to fix individual technical and tactical issues in a way they can feel confident and perform better. It is not easy to have any expectations when without any training sessions.

"The only advantage I have is knowing some of the players coached by me as juniors and interactions while they were playing in departments and leagues. But no one can do wonders in such a short time, the main process will start after this event," Zaman said in an interaction with select media.

Lack of exposure

The previous outing for Pakistan was the Nations Cup in Poland - a qualifying event for the Pro League - where the team finished fourth behind New Zealand, France and South Africa and captain Ammad Butt, one of the few comparatively senior players, believes lack of experience was the biggest drawback for his side.

"Not just South Africa, ideally we should not have lost to New Zealand also in the semifinals. There were some issues in our performance in that tournament – some players were very new with no international exposure and we had not played a big international competition in a long time. It is not fair to suddenly take young kids to a big event and ask them to perform. We played well but the defence stumbled towards the end against SA and conceded goals. I believe we should have finished on the podium," he told *The Hindu*.

Oltmans was the Pakistan coach at that time, hired by the Pakistan Hockey Federation on an event-by-event basis due to financial constraints, not an ideal situation in any scenario. Add to the fact that the PHF itself has two factions, both claiming legitimacy and one recognised by the Pakistan government and the FIH each, and things don't look great off the field.

"There are a lot of things to discuss with the PHF. It is a time-consuming process, I am sure we have enough talent to come back to world hockey but there are no shortcuts. It is not going to be easy without proper infrastructure, having a national level High Performance Centre or working on player welfare. Hopefully those things will happen soon," Zaman said, adding that he had plans to revive Pakistan hockey but admitting it would be hard work.

"There are quite a few things we are addressing in the initial stages. We are working on upgrading our domestic hockey structure and standards and hopefully we will soon have a professional hockey league. Then, it is not possible to come back to high performance hockey without international experience.

"For that we have to allocate a budget which can allow us to travel abroad and play matches against top teams or top clubs. We will try to schedule our domestic calendar in such a way that our players are free to play in other leagues without it clashing with domestic events. We are also planning to restart the national junior championships and might start a national junior league if there is enough support from corporates. But all of this is in the pipeline.

"The PHF demolished the departmental system when it started the regional system of competition and selection and I don't think it was a wise decision, we need to carry them both. Now they are trying to activate departmental hockey again. It is a long process, we have to make sure we are starting a sustainable process. I have the ideas and plans but only a continuity of this process will lead to success," he laid out, explaining in detail the long haul ahead.

Butt agreed that, more than anything else, it was the system back home that needed fixing if Pakistan hockey wished to get back to the top tier in the world. Ironically, Pakistan players continue to be in demand, performing well in various European leagues, and Butt explained there was an easy reason. "System. When we play in clubs, the system is very different. In the national team we do not get that or facilities, which results in a decline in performance.

"The system is the biggest problem. Sadly, grass-roots hockey is all but finished in Pakistan at the moment and that's where the revival needs to start so that new talent, new kids can be identified, trained and formed into junior and sub-junior camps," he explained.

The ACT, in itself, might not be a top-tier competition but it holds significance for Asian countries, providing valuable ranking points - India is the lone Asian side in the World's top-10 at the moment with four of the six teams in the fray - Korea, Malaysia, Japan and Pakistan - occupying the 13-16 spots.

"This is a very important tournament not just for us individually for experience but doing well here is important for the revival of Pakistan hockey. Specially given the situation we have been in recently and the conditions and circumstances in which our players have performed. Our team here is a combination of junior and senior players but most are very young," Butt said.

He agreed with Zaman that talent was the least of Pakistan hockey's problems. "There is no lack of talent or skills. These are the same guys from the Junior Asia Cup or the last ACT or the Asian Games. What they don't have is international exposure. We need to play more games with good teams to get better. The Indian federation is strong and manages to get them, ours is very weak in comparison and there have also been a lot of problems for a long time. Things are now slowly getting better, the government has started giving some attention to hockey and the private sector is also slowly getting interested again," he was optimistic.

Chop and change

Asked about the frequent changes in the coaching staff, Butt was blunt in his assessment. Zaman's appointment at the last minute is only a symptom of a deeper malaise, something Indian hockey suffered from for a long time before setting its house in order. Siegfried Aikman came on board in 2021 but quit soon after months of unpaid dues, Oltmans sought a proper, long-term contract and PHF brought in the likes of Shahnaz Shaikh and Rehan Butt in between, only to be removed unceremoniously.

"We tried getting foreign coaches, did all sorts of experiments. It is very difficult for the boys to get a grip on things, they are not clear on what to do or not on the field all the time. Changing coaches every tournament is not a good thing, they should be hired for the long-term so that there is some stability and continuity.

"(Oltmans) was with us for two tournaments, the performances got better but then financial issues forced him to cancel. It takes time for our boys to understand a foreign coach and his style. Results will come but it will take time. Hopefully we will continue with these players only to reach our target," he shrugged.

Zaman agreed. "I have had some discussions with the PHF but the main long-term contract will be discussed after returning. What I can assure is that it won't be a short-term thing. I will work on making a centralised pool of players, including juniors also if need be, so that we have at least 30-35 players to rotate," he said.

Finishing the ACT with a bronze, Butt and his boys have ticked off the first of many boxes. To put the medal in context, this is Pakistan's first-ever medal in any competition, outside the Azlan Shah Cup, since being joint winners with India at the 2018 ACT. After years of false dawns, Zaman would be hoping the hopes of revival are real this time around.

(The interactions were facilitated by Sony Sports Network, the official broadcaster for the Hero Asian Champions Trophy).

THE GIST

- Factionalism, mismanagement and lack of funds have further pushed it down, the team languishing at 16th position at the moment
- The previous outing for Pakistan was the Nations Cup in Poland – a qualifying event for the Pro League – where the team finished fourth behind New Zealand, France and South Africa
- Finishing the ACT with a bronze, Butt and his boys have ticked off the first of many boxes

Security staffer saves man who jumped onto metro track

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Security officer Rashmi who activated the Emergency Trip System and saved the man's life at Jnanabharati station.

A 30-year-old man attempted to end his life by jumping in front of a train at Jnanabharati metro station on Tuesday. However, staff of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) rescued him.

The man has been identified as Siddharth from Bihar. According to BMRCL officials, the man was waiting at the station and jumped onto the tracks at around 1.13 p.m. when a train was approaching.

Immediately, an alert woman security staff Rashmi switched off the power supply to the tracks activating the Emergency Trip System (ETS). However, by the time the train came to a halt, the man was under the first coach, but unhurt. BMRCL officials later rescued him and handed him over to the police for further investigation.

The accused did not sustain any injuries as he was rescued in the nick of time.

Train services on the entire Purple Line were resumed 15 minutes later and two trains were operated in a short loop at Mysuru Road instead of Challaghatta metro station, BMRCL said.

Police investigations have now revealed that Siddharth was a BCom graduate and worked as a salesman at an electronics shop in the city. He told the police that he was depressed over his financial troubles and had decided to end his life.

(Those in distress or having suicidal thoughts can call Arogya Sahayavani helpline number 104)

'Administrative processes, types of cases impact performance of district courts'

Researchers from the NLSIU and the IISc conducted a quantitative analysis of over 1,700 district courts in the country between 2010 and 2018

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

A file photo of the Dakshina Kannada district court complex in Mangaluru.

A collaborative study 'Decision Time: Illuminating Performance in India's District Courts', conducted by the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), has revealed that rather than the number of judges or the total working days, the court type and the types of cases significantly impact the performance of district courts.

Researchers Varsha Aithala, Anushka Sachan, Srijoni Sen (formerly or presently associated with NLSIU), and Himanshu Payal, Chiranjib Bhattacharya (associated with IISc.) conducted a quantitative analysis of over 1,700 district courts in the country between 2010 and 2018.

They assessed the performance of the courts through the measure of timeliness of case disposal. Median Days to Decision (MDD) or the number of days taken for a district court to decide a case was used as the measuring tool.

The study was published in *Data and Policy*, a journal from the Cambridge University Press on August 30.

The study aims to understand the impact of working strength and tenure of judges, case administration, age distribution of cases, and category or case type against the performance of the district courts.

The researchers also classified the top and bottom 1 percentile of district courts (based on their MDD) as 15 High Median Days (HMD) courts and 15 Low Median Days (LMD) courts to assess the impact of the aforementioned factors better on their performances.

The study further says that the administrative categorisation of a court seems to have a greater impact on its performance when compared to the number of cases adjudicated before that court.

This is supported by the data which shows that LMD courts see a higher caseload (ranging from 674 to 71,000 cases) whereas HMD courts see a much lower caseload (81 to 3,400 cases). Further, the LMD courts decided a majority of cases within the first year of filing date, whereas in HMD courts, nearly 65% of the cases took between three to 10 years for disposal.

The study also elucidates the importance of administrative processes and structures in the court performance. It says that high-performing courts showed better administrative efficiency in case management and took less than 100 days from filing to listing a matter for the first hearing. Meanwhile, low-performing courts took more than 800 days to do the same.

"We found that overall, courts categorised as district and sessions courts took less time to decide all categories of cases (therefore, are more productive) than the Chief Judicial Magistrate courts and the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate courts in a district," said Ms. Aithala, one of the authors.

"We also found that criminal cases formed the majority of the caseload of district courts in India. Those district courts which took more days to decide a case also had a higher percentage of cases at the earlier stages in the life cycle of a case (like appearance, hearing, evidence etc) rather than argument or order or judgement, which come at the later procedural stage," she added.

Another key finding from the study was that there was no difference between the performances of the courts with high and low judge strength.

Summarising the findings, Ms. Aithala said, "We find that the quality of judicial time spent at a court is critical, and simply adding more judges or increasing the number of days that a judge spends in that court are not good indicators to understand court performance. We determine court performance based on a single measure: the time taken for a district court to decide a case. Therefore, our suggestion is that policy efforts should be directed at improving case management practices, effective case categorization, and streamlined administrative processes in district courts."

BBMP told to redirect sewage flow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following oral complaints from residents, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has directed the storm-water drain division of the Bommanhalli zone of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to divert the flow of sewage from a storm-water drain (SWD) attached to Vakil Marina, a housing society in Kodichikkanahalli near Madiwala lake into the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board's (BWSSB) underground drainage.

"Stench from the sewage flowing in the SWD had become unbearable and it had become difficult to live there owing to snakes, insects, and termites. Hence we gave an oral complaint," said a resident.

An environmental officer from Bommanahalli office of KSPCB inspected the area and found that sewage was causing the stench. Hence, the order was passed on September 9.

Pourakarmikas condemn assault, call for protest today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Pourakarmika Sangha on Tuesday condemned violence, caste-based and gender-based atrocities against pourakarmikas and inaction by authorities, following an incident on September 11 where six female pourakarmikas were allegedly violently assaulted and subjected to casteist abuse while performing their cleaning duties in Ward no. 72.

The members alleged that a local resident named Chandru and his mother verbally abused the pourakarmikas with casteist slurs, destroyed one of their phones when she attempted to record the incident, and physically assaulted several workers causing serious injuries.

Although an FIR was filed in the case under the Scheduled Castes - Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, the members said that no arrests were made.

> We deal with untouchability every day. We are not allowed to touch the gates of certain homes, and people give us water in bathroom mugs. This is the discrimination we face even while performing essential work.
>
> **RANGAMMA,** Pourakarmika

In a press conference on Tuesday, Nirmala, president of the BBMP Pourakarmikara Sangha said: "This incident highlights the danger under which pourakarmikas are forced to work. It also shows the triple oppression they endure daily – based on their caste, gender, and class. Despite doing essential public health work, they are met with systemic discrimination and violence, which needs immediate attention and correction".

Lakshmi, one of the assaulted pourakarmikas, asked: "Why have the culprits not yet been arrested?" She further said, "They violated my dignity in public, and the fact that there has been no action against them shows the negligence towards workers like us."

Another pourakarmika, Rangamma, highlighted the daily caste atrocities faced by pourakarmikas, stating: "It's not just this one incident. We deal with untouchability every day. We are not allowed to touch the gates of certain homes, and people give us water in bathroom mugs. This is the discrimination we face, even while performing essential work."

The sangha has called for a protest on Wednsday in front of the BBMP office demanding immediate arrest of the culprits involved in the assault and the provision of compensation of ₹10 lakh for each of the assaulted pourakarmikas.

Darshan's judicial custody extended

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A magistrate court in the city extended the judicial custody of actor Darshan and 16 others, accused in the Renukaswamy murder case, till September 30.

Darshan and the other accused were produced before the 24th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) during the day via videoconference. The court then extended the custody of the accused.

Meanwhile, as the investigating officer sought time to submit evidence including copies of forensic reports of four electronic devices and other digital evidence it was accorded by the court.

Rowdy sheeter who stripped man and recorded video arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kamakshipalya police have arrested a rowdy sheeter who had stripped a man, assaulted him, recorded a video of the act, and uploaded it on social media. The accused Pavan alias Kadubu, 28, was arrested after the police shot him in the leg, after he allegedly attacked a police officer resisting arrest on Tuesday morning.

Pavan, a rowdy sheeter with over 12 criminal cases pending against him, had assaulted the man now identified as Nagarjuna, on Sunday night. Pavan forced Nagarjuna to strip on the road and assaulted him, over a trivial row. He recorded the act and the video had gone viral, prompting the police to launch a probe.

Pavan has 12 criminal cases pending against him.

Nagarjuna also has criminal cases pending against him and had not approached the police. However, the police identified him and recorded his statement, before registering a case against Pavan. A probe revealed that on Sunday night, Pavan had also assaulted another youth Vishwas.

The Kamakshipalya police located the accused at his hideout in Ullal, based on his mobile tower location. A police team led by inspector Subramani K. surrounded the building and asked Pavan to surrender.

Attacks constable

However, in a bid to escape he allegedly attacked head constable Venkatesh with a knife and tried to flee. Mr. Subramani claimed to have opened fire at the left leg of the accused to stop him from fleeing and arrested him. While the accused Pavan is being treated at a private hospital, Mr. Venkatesh is being treated at a private hospital.

Man held for stealing 50 laptops from employer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Whitefield police on Tuesday arrested a 29-year-old system administrator of a private company for stealing 50 laptops worth ₹22 lakh from the company.

The accused, Murugesh M. from Hosur, was arrested from a theatre in Hosur. According to the police,

Inquiries revealed the accused had incurred huge losses and decided to steal laptops and sell them

Murugesh, a BCA graduate, was working as a system administrator at a company in Whitefield for the last six years.

Inquiries revealed that he had incurred huge losses during the pandemic as he had invested around ₹25 lakh on a farmstay and could not recover the money.

In order to repay the losses, he decided to steal laptops and sell it to a shop at his hometown. In the last six months, the accused had stolen 50 laptops and sold them at an electronic shop to repay the loan, police said.

The incident came to light during an annual audit by the company and it was realised that many laptops were missing. The company executives analysed the CCTV camera footage and discovered that Murugesh was stealing the laptops. Based on a complaint, the police tracked down the accused to his hometown and recovered the stolen valuables.

#BLRFootpathChallenge: A unique drive to draw attention to walking facilities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Citizens can join the #BLRFootpath Challenge to rate footpaths across the city and flag any issue they find. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

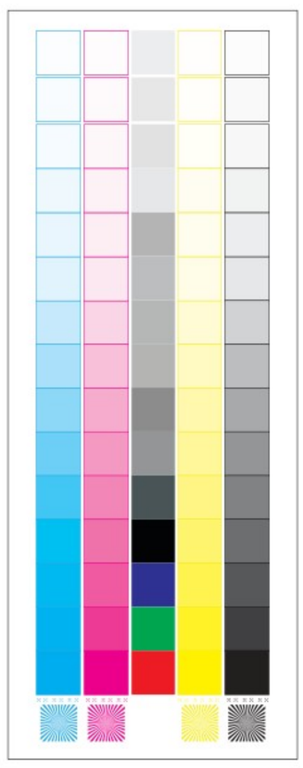
Have you ever tried to walk around Bengaluru, but been deterred by the obstacles on the footpaths? Then join the #BLRFootpath Challenge to rate footpaths across the city and flag any issue you find.

This initiative has been taken up by Arun Pai, founder of Bangalore Walks, and Deepesh Agarwal, CEO of MoveInSync (provider of employee transportation). Mr. Pai aims to run 100 kilometres on the roads of the city to review the health of the footpaths.

The initiative began on September 15 and will go on till October 2. The duo completed reviewing around 14 kilometres of footpaths until Tuesday. They have covered many important roads in the central business district, including M.G. Road, Nrupathunga Road, Cubbon Road, and Kasturba Road, among others. "There are many people from Bengaluru and those who visit from outside who want to walk around and enjoy the weather. But they are unable to do so as there is no proper infrastructure for walkers. There are many people who are trying to address these issues, and I want to run 100 kilometres to draw attention to those issues. Just the way there are signal-free corridors, we want obstacle-free footpaths (OFF)," Mr. Pai spoke about his initiative.

As of now, Mr. Pai and Mr. Agarwal are recording the state of footpaths on video and rating them on a scale of one to five. They have also invited eight teams for a hackathon to build a simple app on which citizens will soon be able to flag the issues they face on footpaths. "We will work with the government and fix these issues," Mr. Agarwal said. They can flag issues like dug-up pavements, hawkers, encroachments etc.

"We always talk about decongesting roads and vehicles, but pedestrian mobility is equally important. We are organising a mobility symposium on October 3 where there will be discussions around shared mobility, public transport, and even pedestrian mobility. We will present our findings from the initiative in this symposium to find solutions," Mr. Agarwal added.



Case filed against central prison officials and KSISF personnel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city police who recently raided the Bengaluru Central Prison Complex and seized several banned items, including mobile phones, have registered a case against prison officials and the Karnataka State Industrial Security Force (KSISF) personnel guarding the prison.

This comes three weeks after the city police booked three similar FIRs against prison officials and undertrials, including jailed actor Darshan, over preferential treatment to him.

Nine prison officials including the Chief Superintendent of the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison were suspended and Home Minister G. Parameshwara had promised a rehaul of the security system in the prison.

Complaint filed

Following the recent raid, the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Electronics City sub-division, lodged a complaint based on which a FIR has been registered against unnamed prison officials, KSISF personnel and inmates of the prison under Section 323 (dishonestly or fraudulently concealing or removing property) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and various sections of the Prisons Act, 1894.

The Parappana Agrahara police have served notices to multiple prison and KSISF personnel and they are being questioned to ascertain their role in the irregularities being continued unabated in the prison.

The raid on Sunday led to 15 mobile phones, chargers, and other electronic gadgets apart from knives, and ₹36,100 in cash being recovered.

Rapa Nui genomes restore the real history of an old, troubled people

Studying Indigenous genomes offers invaluable insights into historical population dynamics, ecological adaptations, and the complex stories of human migration and survival. In many ways, the Rapa Nui genomes also show how genomic evidence can expose the derogatory myths that often surround Indigenous peoples

Sridhar Sivasubbu
Vinod Scaria

The volcanic island of Rapa Nui has long been shrouded in mystery. European sailors first arrived on its shores on Easter Sunday in 1722, giving it its colloquial name: Easter Island. It covers just 160 sq. km and is one of the most remote islands on the planet. Today, Rapa Nui is part of Polynesia and is officially a territory of Chile.

Early Polynesian explorers are believed to have traversed thousands of kilometres of open ocean to reach and settle the island, likely arriving centuries before the Europeans. The island's geography is harsh and challenging for humans. Its lava-covered terrain is rocky with limited freshwater sources, poor soil quality, and a low diversity of flora and fauna.

Despite these challenges, its first humans likely established a unique society in order to survive their exacting environs. However, the island's offerings would still have been quite finite, and ingenuity could only have taken the people so far. These realities gave rise to the widely held notion that the humans eventually overpopulated the island, resulting in ecological collapse and its people's demise.

But new evidence suggests this view may be fiction.

Turning the gaze within

Rapa Nui is famous for its large statues called moai. They are shaped like large human heads and erected on stone pedestals. Some moai stand 40 feet tall and weigh 75 tonnes. They were carved in volcanic stone at quarries and then moved to their current locations across the island. Scholars believe the Rapa Nui built the moai between the 13th and the 16th centuries and represented their revered ancestors.

The statues all face inland, towards the people. Over 900 moai have been found on the island to date; more than half of them were transported across considerable distances from the quarries.

In his book 2004 *Collapse*, Jared Diamond proposed the population of Rapa Nui collapsed after overexploiting resources. The idea quickly found wide acceptance and became an example of the importance of sustainable living. But some scholars have called into question the feeble evidence to support the hypothesis.

Protecting the soil

Scientists think the island's population had declined by around 1,600 before European explorers arrived in the 18th century. By then, the population was estimated to be around 1,500-3,000.

The Ahu Tongariki stone platform on Rapa Nui with all its 15 moai, restored in the 1990s. BJØRN CHRISTIAN TØRRISSEN (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Due to the limited availability of freshwater and the abundance of rocks, which limited widespread agriculture, the natives are believed to have burnt the palm vegetation to improve soil productivity.

They were also expected to have used rock gardening, a.k.a., lithic mulching: a way to protect soil moisture by regulating the temperature.

Either way, before the European settlers made contact with the Rapa Nui, the latter practised a limited agriculture to produce their food.

A long-awaited census

In July, researchers from Columbia University, Arizona University, and Binghamton University, plus independent researchers from Rapa Nui, reported training an AI model to identify locations in satellite images of the island where its inhabitants practised rock-gardening.

The researchers estimated rock gardening was practised in less than 1 sq. km of the land, lower than previous estimates of 4-20 sq. km. Assuming the inhabitants exclusively cultivated sweet potatoes, the findings suggest they may have numbered fewer than 4,000 people.

Genetic studies have in the past provided unique insights into the histories of Indigenous and ancestral populations around the world. In 2014, *Current Biology* journal published a paper in which researchers analysed 27 genomes of the Rapa Nui people and concluded they had a considerable Native American ancestry, of around 8%. They also found the admixture with Native Americans happened before the 18th century. A significant European admixture followed when Europeans discovered and then colonised the island in the 18th century.

> Early Polynesian explorers are believed to have traversed thousands of kilometres of open ocean to reach and settle the island, likely arriving centuries before the Europeans

Two catastrophes

In the event of an ecological collapse or a population bottleneck (when the genetic diversity of the population becomes so low as to become unable to withstand shocks like new diseases or disasters), the genomes would have been quite un-diverse in the population's descendants. Such "signals" could in turn provide insights into bottlenecks in the history of that population.

Members of the Rapa Nui community resisted an initial attempt by researchers to study their genomes. So a team led by Víctor Moreno-Mayar at the University of Copenhagen turned to the remains of 15 Rapa Nui people secured at a museum in Paris. The remains were dated to have originated between 1670 and 1950 AD. The team extracted and sequenced DNA from tissue samples and reported their findings on September 11 in *Nature*.

According to the study, the Rapa Nui population developed a bottleneck around 1300 AD – confirming a previous finding that highlighted the same date and, crucially, ruling out a population decline in around 1600 AD. Instead, the study suggested the population steadily grew until the European settlers arrived, followed by two catastrophic events: Chilean slave traders abducted more than a third of the population, and then there was a large outbreak of smallpox. The local population soon dwindled to one hundred or so individuals as a result.

Restoring real histories

So there we have it: the pre-modern Rapa Nui didn't overexploit the resources of their small island. In fact, they may have been living responsibly, only to be decimated by the apathy of other peoples.

Studying indigenous genomes offers invaluable insights into historical population dynamics, ecological adaptations, and the complex stories of human migration and survival. In many ways, the Rapa Nui genomes also show how genomic evidence can expose the derogatory myths that often surround Indigenous people and give them their real histories back.

(The authors are senior consultants at Karkinos Healthcare and adjunct professors at IIT Kanpur and the D.Y. Patil Medical College, Pune. sridhar.sivasubbu@gmail.com, vinod.scaria@karkinos.in)

THE GIST

In the book *Collapse*, it was proposed that the population collapsed after overexploiting resources. The idea found acceptance and became an example of the importance of sustainable living. But some scholars called into question the feeble evidence provided

According to a study, the Rapa Nui population grew until Europeans arrived, followed by two catastrophic events: Chilean slave traders abducted a third of the population, and then there was a smallpox outbreak. Numbers dwindled to one hundred or so

The study concludes that the pre-modern Rapa Nui didn't overexploit the resources of their small island. In fact, they may have been living responsibly, only to be decimated by the apathy of other peoples

BIG SHOT

A wildfire at Aveiro, Portugal, on Monday. Portugal has received pledges of support from its European partners as it battled forest fires in its north that have killed two people and injured a dozen firefighters, authorities said. AFP

QUESTION CORNER

Eye of the tiger

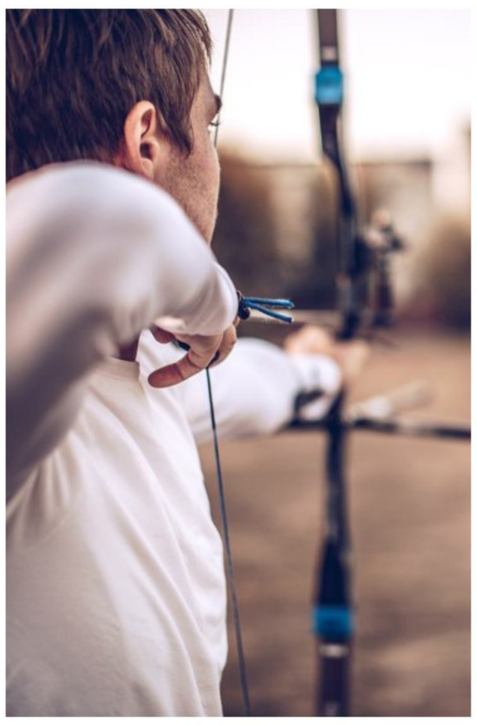
Q: Why do we aim with one eye closed?
A: Not everybody does this, according to a professor of neurobiology and behaviour at Cornell University, but those who do, do so because of a phenomenon called binocular rivalry.

If you look through a sight with the left eye alone, what you see is not identical with what you see with the right alone, and the two images compete rather than blending.

For example, if the left eye is shown only vertical lines and the right eye only horizontal lines, you might think you would see a screen pattern, but in fact you would see patches of vertical lines intermingled with patches of horizontal lines.

Some people can mentally suppress the competing image, but some find it uncomfortable. So they close one eye.

When aiming at a target, most people tend to use the dominant eye, which generally, but not always has better vision. If the eyes differ in focal length, some may use one eye to aim at objects farther away and use the other for targets that are closer.



If the two eyes are shown different images, they sometimes compete instead of blending. Some people can mentally suppress the competing image, but some find it uncomfortable. GETTY IMAGES

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A BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The decline in India's merchandise exports in August

9.3 In per cent. India's merchandise exports in August declined to $34.71 billion from $38.28 billion in the year-ago month. Imports increased by 3.3% to $64.36 billion in August as against $62.3 billion a year ago. PTI

The death toll due to typhoon Yagi in Myanmar

226 The death toll in the country, triggered by last week's typhoon Yagi, was almost seven times Friday's initial total of 33. At least 77 people were reported missing. The typhoon also claimed almost 300 lives in Vietnam. AP

The Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip since October 7

41,252 The toll includes 26 deaths in the last 24 hours, according to the health ministry in Gaza. At least 95,497 people have been wounded in the Gaza Strip in the war between Israel and Hamas. AFP

Additional support pledged to Bangladesh by the World Bank

2 In $ billion. The World Bank said that it could mobilise an additional $2 billion to support critical reforms, flood response, better air quality and health. The World Bank Country Director pledged the new assistance when he called on Muhammad Yunus in Dhaka. PTI

Number of women-led MSMEs to benefit from CGTMSE scheme

27 In lakh. Women-owned micro and small enterprises will get enhanced credit guarantee coverage of 90% under the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE). PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Power asymmetry between China and Russia

As supplies from Moscow's traditional partners have dried up under sanctions and Russia's domestic capacity remains stretched, China has stepped up to help its friend. Compared to 2021, when high-priority goods from China accounted for 32% of Russia's import needs, China's share soared to 89% in 2023

WORLD INSIGHT

Amit Kumar

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 has brought about a major shift in the world order. Not only did it bring about a stronger trans-Atlantic alignment vis-a-vis Russia, but it has also pushed the latter closer to China. Consequently, strategists around the globe have been preoccupied with the repercussions of such a partnership between the two countries. The deepening Sino-Russian relationship has become a subject of discussion in India as well. The concern that one of India's most trusted partners now possibly shares an indispensable friendship with India's primary adversary has instigated debate around the reliability of Russia as a security partner. In this context, the most recurrent question that is being raised is: has Russia become a junior partner of China? The answer to the question will determine the autonomy that the Kremlin can exercise when it comes to choosing between Beijing and New Delhi.

Against the U.S.-led financial order

The two countries have a shared grievance against the dual hegemony of the dollar and the SWIFT messaging system central to the current global financial system. Their perpetual tension with the U.S.-led geopolitical order of the West puts them in a vulnerable spot – the effects of which have become more pronounced lately.

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the U.S. and its allies froze close to $300 billion of Russia's forex reserves held overseas. China fears a similar threat in the event of a conflict with the West as around $770 billion of China's $3 trillion forex reserves are currently held in U.S. treasuries. Further, in 2024, the West imposed a SWIFT ban on Russian financial institutions involved in transactions of dual-use goods or weapons. The U.S. also threatened secondary sanctions on third-country financial institutions involved in such transactions with Russia. Fearing secondary SWIFT sanctions, Chinese financial institutions have withheld transactions worth tens of billions of yuan from Russia.

Thus, the two countries have a joint objective to reform (upend) the existing financial and economic order. The two have tried to promote de-dollarisation and alternative payment settlement systems, albeit without much success. Even as the two settled more than 90% of their bilateral trade in local currencies in 2023, this amounted to less than a percent of current account transactions globally. Renminbi-denominated transactions in settling trade amount to only around 6% of global transactions, which were otherwise dominated by the dollar, euro, pound and yen.

China's effort to promote the Cross-Border Interbank Payment System (CIPS) – its home-grown payment settlement system – is far from challenging SWIFT anytime soon, limiting its utility.

However, Russia's isolation from the Western-dominated global financial system makes its need for an alternative much more urgent. China's requirements aren't as urgent despite its grievances, as Beijing is still very much a part of the system. This essentially leaves Russia at China's mercy to set the pace for reforms. Furthermore, China alone has the diplomatic and monetary resources to mount a potential challenge to the Western-dominated financial order. Russia's isolation and limited resources render it completely dependent on China to pull it out of its misery.

Asymmetry in bilateral trade

At first glance, China-Russia trade appears symmetric over the years. In fact, Russia maintains a modest trade surplus over China. However, the asymmetry becomes apparent when their bilateral trade is put in the wider context of their respective overall trade.

In 2023, while exports to China made up for around 30.4% of Russia's total exports, Russia accounted for only 3% of China's total exports. While imports from China accounted for 36% of Russia's total imports in 2023, China's imports from Russia amounted to ~5% of its total imports.

Secondly, more than 70% of Russia's exports to China were energy (fossil fuel) in 2022. In contrast, China's exports to Russia were relatively more diversified. This makes Russia's exports to China prone to shocks and uncertainties. Thirdly, not only are Russia's exports to China dominated by energy, but a majority of Russia's global energy exports are also concentrated in China. This is significant because the revenues from the energy sector have contributed between 30-50% of Russia's annual federal budget in the last 10 years. Moreover, the oil and gas sector contributes about 20% of Russia's GDP.

This renders the Kremlin's economy largely dependent on China.

And lastly, Russia has lately become completely dependent on China for its requirement of high-priority goods – a list of "50 dual-use products that are essential for manufacturing weaponry like missiles, drones, and tanks." The war in Ukraine has significantly enhanced the importance of the metalworking industry, which is critical to producing machine tools necessary for arms manufacturing. As supplies from Moscow's traditional partners have dried up under sanctions and Russia's domestic capacity remains stretched, China has stepped up to help its friend. Compared to 2021, when high-priority goods from China accounted for 32% of Russia's import needs, China's share soared to 89% in 2023. Additionally, China's share in Russian imports of critical machine tools has increased from 28% in 2021 to 59% in 2022. In 2023, almost all of Russia's requirements were sourced from China.

In the process, over the last few years, China has completely dethroned the EU as Russia's primary trade partner. Moreover, it has absorbed majority of Russia's losses emanating from reduced trade with the EU. This has kept Moscow's trade figures largely stable despite stringent sanctions from the West. To sum up, China has emerged as Russia's most indispensable partner.

What does it mean for India?

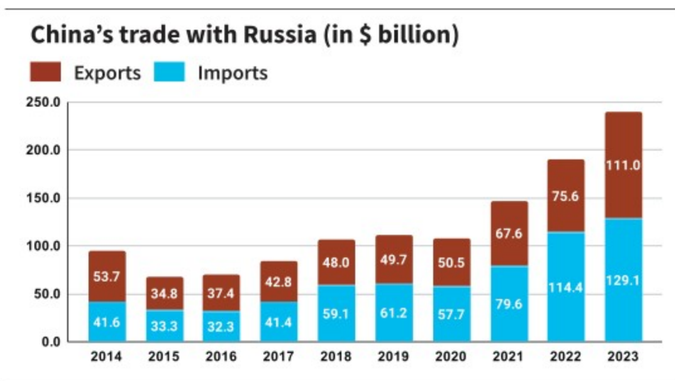
Despite all the goodwill that exists in the India-Russia relationship, the Kremlin's geopolitical goals align more closely with Beijing's than New Delhi's.

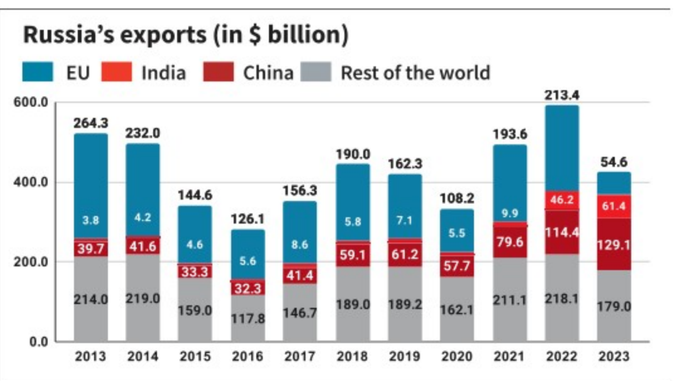
Further, trade between India and Russia constitutes only a minuscule percentage of the expanding China-Russia trade. The strategic alignment between China and Russia is too deep, and the asymmetry in their economic ties is too wide for Moscow to exercise any autonomy vis-a-vis India if it ever came down to choosing between New Delhi and Beijing. The question is no longer about Russia's willingness but its capability to resist China's pressure.

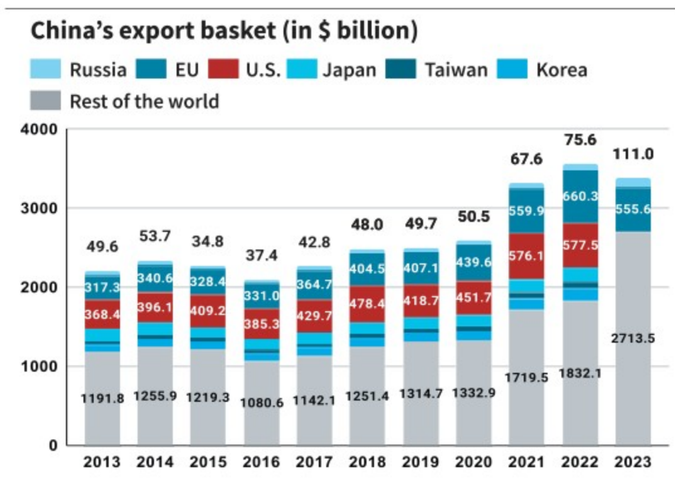
Amit Kumar is a Staff Research Analyst at Takshashila Institution. He tweets at am_i_t_kumar.

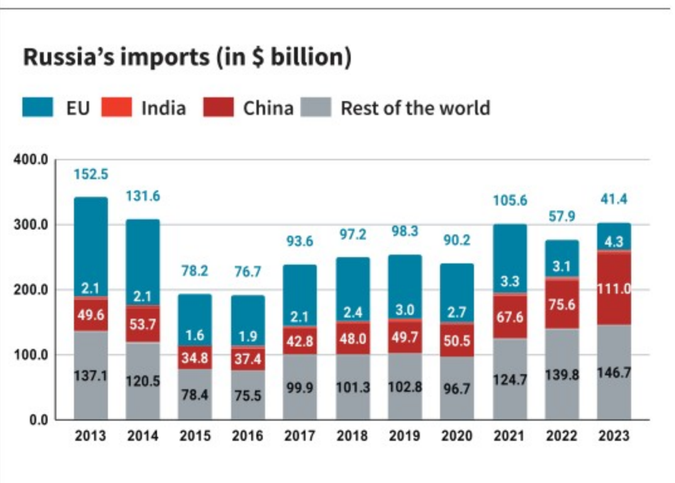
A new power nexus?

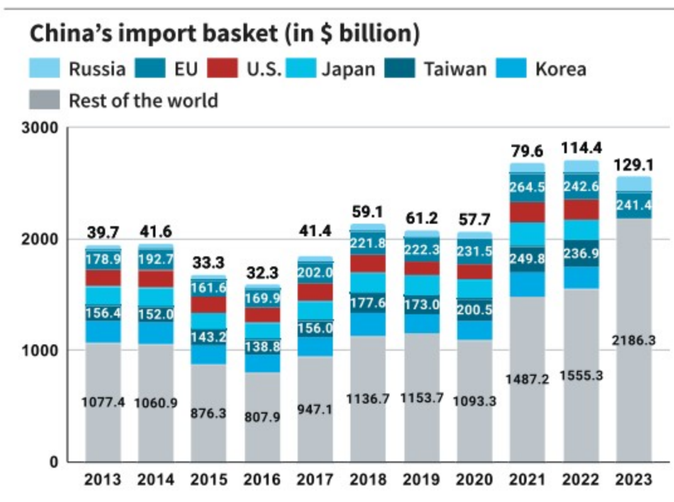
After the Russia-Ukraine war began, Russia has become completely dependent on China for its requirement of high-priority goods — a list of "50 dual-use products that are essential for manufacturing weaponry like missiles, drones, and tanks"

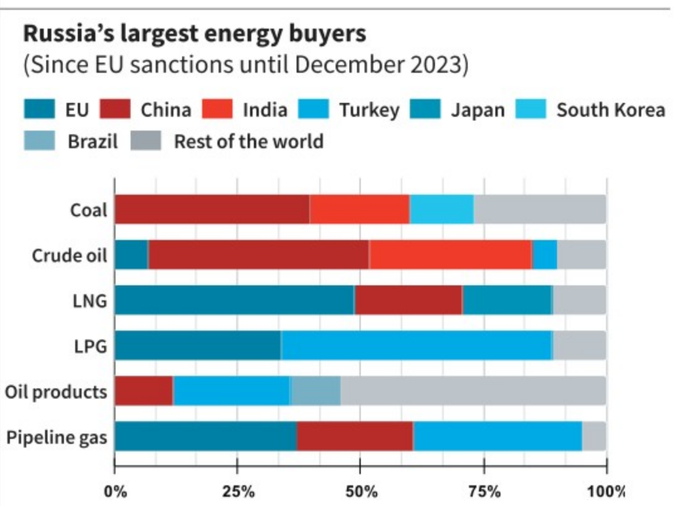












Note: China did not release individual figures for all countries in 2023. Rest of World figures inclusive of the U.S., Japan, Taiwan, and Korea.

Source: Bank of Russia; National Bureau of Statistics (China); Ministry of Commerce; EuroStat; General Administration of Customs (China); CREA

THE GIST

China and Russia have a shared grievance against the dual hegemony of the dollar and the SWIFT messaging system central to the current global financial system.

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the U.S. and its allies froze close to $300 billion of Russia's forex reserves held overseas. China fears a similar threat in the event of a conflict with the West as around $770 billion of China's $3 trillion forex reserves are currently held in U.S. treasuries. Further, in 2024, the West imposed a SWIFT ban on Russian financial institutions involved in transactions of dual-use goods or weapons.

Despite all the goodwill that exists in the India-Russia relationship, the Kremlin's geopolitical goals align more closely with Beijing's than New Delhi's.

Dengue virus 3 dominated during the outbreak in city between April and July: Study

Number of dengue cases this year touched 27,490 as of Tuesday, the highest ever in Karnataka. As many as 12 dengue deaths were recorded this year, including three from BBMP limits

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A study by doctors from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and NIMHANS has found a striking predominance of dengue virus type 3 (DENV-3) in Bengaluru between this April and July, when the disease was at its peak. The study was published in *The Lancet* last week.

The number of dengue cases this year touched 27,490 as of Tuesday, the highest ever in Karnataka. As many as 12 dengue deaths were recorded this year of which three are from BBMP limits. Early this month Karnataka notified dengue as an epidemic. However, the number of cases are on a decline in the last fortnight.

Dengue virus (DENV) - that has four serotypes - is transmitted to humans by the day-biting aedes aegypti mosquitoes. While some studies indicate that particular DENV strains are more virulent than others, doctors said a secondary infection in dengue patients determines the severity of the disease.

A file photo of a civic worker fogging at the BBMP office premises.

To assess the current serotype distribution in Bengaluru, doctors analysed 1,600 samples from acute febrile illness patients across all eight zones of urban Bengaluru. Samples were collected through health centres under BBMP during the outbreak between April and July 2024 and tested at the civic body's sentinel laboratory in H. Siddaiah Referral Hospital. Of these, 549 (34.3%) tested positive for dengue NS1 antigen and/or anti-dengue IgM by ELISA., said Shruthi Uppoor, consultant microbiologist at the sentinel lab in H. Siddaiah Referral Hospital, who is one of the lead authors of the study.

"Of the 549 dengue positive samples, 507 (92.3%) were NSI antigen positive. We sent only the NS1 samples to the Department of Neurovirology at NIMHANS for serotyping (as only the NS1 samples are eligible) to assess the circulating dengue virus in the city," she said.

Of the 507 NS1 positive samples, 228 (45%) tested positive for DENV serotypes through polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests. "Real-time PCR analysis of the 228 samples revealed a striking predominance of DENV-3 (79.8%), followed by DENV-1 (11.8%), DENV-2 (8.3%), and DENV-4 (1.3%). Additionally, 1.3% (3) of the samples showed DENV-2 and DENV-3 co-infection," Reeta S. Mani, professor and head of the Department of Neurovirology at NIMHANS, told *The Hindu*.

Pointing out that DENV-4 was predominant in Bengaluru previously, Dr. Mani, who is the corresponding author of the study, said: "Our findings indicate a potential shift in serotype dominance towards DENV-3 from DENV-4, which has been the predominant serotype in southern India since 2015, based on evolutionary studies of DENV. The complex immunological dynamics of dengue virus serotypes pose considerable obstacles to the development and implementation of effective dengue vaccines in India. As the country prepares for phase 3 trials of quadrivalent dengue vaccines, understanding region-specific circulating dengue virus serotypes is crucial."

Govt. to reimburse fees of SC students for professional courses in private colleges

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to bear fees charged under various heads by private colleges for professional courses, such as engineering and medicine, to students of the Scheduled Castes (SC) communities eligible for the post-matric scholarship programme.

Earlier, under the scholarship programme, the Social Welfare Department used to reimburse the course fee, the exam fee, and the library and lab fees. However, private colleges used to charge consensual agreement fees ranging between ₹20,000 and ₹50,000, which many students from the SC community used to find it tough to pay.

"There were many examples of students discontinuing studies unable to pay these fees. So the scholarship given by the government used to come to naught. To rectify this situation, we have now decided to reimburse all fees charged by private colleges to ensure these qualified SC students study professional courses," said H.C. Mahadevappa, Social Welfare Minister.

The State government issued an order on September 13, according to which, from 2024-25, all SC students seeking seats in Engineering, Medical, Dental, Pharma, AYUSH, MCA, MBA, Nursing, Paramedical, and other professional courses through KEA or other centralised authorities, are eligible for a lump sum for the fees under the post matric scholarship programme of the Department of Social Welfare.

Who is eligible

SC students from families with an annual income less than ₹2.5 lakh and those who secure seats for professional courses through the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), or a similar agency, are eligible for the scholarship.

The State government's move has come at a time when the State has also allowed private colleges to hike the fee for engineering and medical courses. This essentially means that the consensual agreement fees would also be increased.

For the academic year of 2024-25, the State government has allowed private colleges to increase the fee for engineering and medical courses by around 10%.

'Dengue under control now'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The number of dengue cases being reported in the city have come down and is under control now, unlike a surge earlier this July, said Suralkar Vikas Kishor, Special Commissioner (Health), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

"The city used to see more dengue cases in July. We took a lot of precautionary measures to control the outbreak. Epidemics can be prevented quickly if the community works hand-in-hand with the administration," he said.

The civic body gave out "Dengue Warrior" awards on Tuesday, to those students and citizens who had made social media reels creating awareness about dengue and how to prevent it.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 18	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:18
RISE 18:37	SET 06:07
THURSDAY, SEP. 19	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:18
RISE 19:22	SET 07:06
FRIDAY, SEP. 20	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:17
RISE 20:08	SET 08:06

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	23
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	30	20

Bengaluru Today
31ºC The weather will be mostly dry. Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31ºC Dry weather to continue.. Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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CHANGE OF NAME

I, NEELUFAR Samiullah, R/a 43, 4th Main. Bhuvaneshwarinagar Sultanpalya R T Nagar, Bangalore-560032 have changed my name to Neelufar vide affidavit dt: 16.09.2024 sworn before Notary Leela, Bengaluru.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No: E-GSU-ELE-2024-25-OT-11 Dated 09.09.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Name of work	Approx. Value
1) Modification of OHE arrangement for Provision of NMG Checking Facility on Existing Road 6 at SGT Yard.	Rs. 1,02,62,288.19
2) Modification of the Existing OHE arrangement for Extension of Sick line shed by 30m with other facilities at Yesvantpur (YPR) coaching depot.	

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 01.10.2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Gati Shakti Unit Bengaluru
PUB/420/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: CAO/CN/BNC/EPC/26/2024 Dated: 06.09.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) for construction of New Broad Gauge Line between chainage 30/500 & chainage 51/500 including Railway Electrification, Civil works, Signal & Telecommunication works and Electrical General Services between Koratagere (excl.) & Madhugiri (incl.) in Tumakuru - Rayadurga new line project. **(Tender Ref. No.: TK-RDG-EPC-3)**	Rs. 370,38,97,671/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 05.12.2024**
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru
PUB/427/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, Procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017. **Phone No.: 9448994705**
Email: gmpurc@cescmysore.org **Website:** cescmysore.karnataka.gov.in
No: CESC/GM(P)/DGM(P)/AGM(P-1)/2024-25/13108 **Date :** 17.09.2024
Short Term Tender Notification
(E-procurement Portal Only)
CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders for carrying out the following work.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Enquiry no./ Date
1	Comprehensive Strengthening of HT/LT Distribution Network in Kodagu District on total turnkey basis.	C2-5896 12-09-2024

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** on or after **21-09-2024.** For clarification contact help desk **+91-8046010000/ 8068948777** or e-mail address support@eprochelpdesk.com.
For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912
Sd/-
General Manager (Procurement)
CESC, Mysuru.
DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/570/2024-25

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3 (BSWML), #30/1, 1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560 052.
No. DGM-3/(BSWML)/Corr- 01/24-25 Date:17.09.2024
CORRIGENDUM- 1
Sub: Extension of Calendar of Events for Tender Notification.
Ref: This office Tender Notification No:DGM-3/BSWML /TEND/04/24-25, Dated: 13.09.2024.
As per the above subject and reference, the calendar of events for the above tender notification is extended due to Administrative and Technical reasons.
Time schedule/calendar of events:

Sl No		As per tender notification	Extended dates please read as
1	Last date and time for uploading qualification documents	24.09.2024 up-to 16:00 hrs.	**25.09.2024 up-to 16:00 hrs.**
2	Opening of tender date and time	25.09.2024 up-to 16:30 hrs.	**26.09.2024 at 16:30 hrs.**

For Further details visit GOK kpp portal Website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/-
Deputy General Manager -3, BSWML
DIPR/CP/2036/MAA/24-25

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby notified that my client intends to purchase the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** from its **Mr.ANIL TUMATI, Son of Mr.B.T.Ramachandra Reddy,**
Persons/banks/society/firm or any other body having any right, title, interest, claim or charge over the schedule mentioned property or any part thereof is hereby notified to lodge their objections/claims if any, in writing with documentary evidence regarding their manner of right, title, interest, claim or charge, within **10 days** from the date of this publication to the office of undersigned, after which period my client shall proceed to purchase the schedule mentioned property on the basis that there are no objections/claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the schedule mentioned property.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel property bearing Vacant **BDA Site No.5AC-325,** BBMP Katha bearing No.5AC-325 (PID No.84-149-5AC-325), measuring East to West 17.80 Meters, North to South (13.75+21.70)/2 Meters, in all measuring 315.50 Sq. Meters, situated at **O M B R Layout Extension, Bangalore,** with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface, and bounded on the
East by : Site No.5BC-324 and Site No.5BC-326;
West by : 5 'A' Cross;
North by : Site No.5AC-323;
South by : 4th Main Road.
LEGAL & LEGAL,
ADVOCATES, No.32, 1st Cross, 1st Mn Subramanya Layout, Ramurthynagar, Vijinapura, Bengaluru 560 016
Mob: 9900111844, 7406234888.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No: SBC-GSU-ENGG-2024-03
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Bengaluru Canton - ment - Whitefield Quadrupling: Miscellaneous works balance Earthwork in embankment and widening of cutting, side drains, trolley path, trolley refuges, toe wall / retaining wall, station circulating area approaches and other connected works between Bengaluru Cantonment - Krishnarajapuram station from Km. 351/600 to 343/100 (Reach-1).	Rs. 13,44,67,879.90/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 03.10.2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Project Manager / Gati Shakti Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/425/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.
No: Dom/ IAS Training/TENDER/CR-01/2024-25 Date: 18.09.2024
Announcement of Short Term Tender
A Short term 10 Days Re-Tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities for providing Pre-Examination training to Minority students for **UPSC/IAS** examinations at Haj Bhavan, Bengaluru for the year 2024-25. Interested & eligible bidders/institutes can apply through e-procurement portal. The schedule of tender will be as follows.

Sl. No.	Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	**18.09.2024.**
2.	Tender Amount:	**Rs. 200.00 Lakhs.**
3.	EMD Amount:	**Rs.3.00 Lakhs.**
4.	Pre-bid meeting:	**24.09.2024 at 11:30 a.m.**
5.	Last date and time for submission of tender:	**30.09.2024 by 5:30 p.m.**
6.	Date and time of Technical bid opening:	**01.10.2024 at 10:30 a.m.**
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening:	**03.10.2024 at 10:30 a.m. (Tentative)**
8.	Place of tender opening and contact address:	Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
9.	Telephone No. to be contacted	**080-22535902/ 080-22535912.**

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and e-Procurement website at **https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
Joint Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/2020/MAA/24-25

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML, 1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052
No:DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/05/2024-25 Date:17.09.2024
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
Short Term Bid Notification
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

1. The Grants have been Provided under 15th Finance Commission for the works mentioned in the table below and accordingly action plan for the same has been approved by the Government.
2. In this regard, The Deputy General Manager -2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Bidders may submit bids for works given in the table through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. https://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in).
3. Bid documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka.
4. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx. Amount put to Bid (Rs. in lakhs) Including GST	Cost of Bid Document	Stipulated completion period (including monsoon period)
1	Turn Key, Lump Sum, Fixed price, no variation Tender based on Tenderer's Own Design for the work of Construction of 0.5 MLD capacity Leachate Treatment Plant at Mittiganahalli/ Kannur site to treat the legacy Leachate accumulated in the landfill site.(CALL-2)	7000.00	As per KPP portal	9 Months

1. Pre bid meeting will be held on 26.09.2024 at 15:00 hours in office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road,Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
2. Technical Documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the KPP portal **https://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** as per tender document on or before 16:00 hours of 09.10.2024. the Technical bid will be opened through kpp-portal only on 10.10.2024 after 16:30 hours at the stipulated venue. through kpp-portal in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to attend the opening process. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidders. It is the bidders responsibility to verify the KPP portal for the latest information related to the bids, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com. KPP portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The bidders is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the bids. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
4. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPP portal only.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2
BSWML
DIPR/CP/2037/AKAR/2024-25

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: 20/MYS/2024 Dated: 11.09.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Sl.#	Item of work	Approx. Value
1	**Sub Work-1: Asst. Divisional Engineer, Sakaleshpur Section:** Supplying and replacing Level Crossing assemblies and improvements to roads at Hassan - Sakaleshpur (HAS-SKLR) section and Subrahmanya Road - Padil (SBHR-PADIL) Stations. **Sub Work-2: Hassan - Mangaluru Jn. Section:** Improvements to cess of formation between Hassan - Sakaleshpur (HAS-SKLR) and Subrahmanya Road - Padil (SBHR-PADIL).	Rs. 5,07,84,474/-
2	**Mysuru - Chamarajanagar Section:** Interlocking of Manned LC Gate No. 51 at Km. 56/200-300 between Nanjangud Town - Chamarajanagar (NTW-CMNR) over Mysuru Division 140329234003.	Rs. 25,84,990/-
3	**Sub Work-1: Hassan - Mangaluru Jn. Section:** Ancillary works for improvements to Road to RUB No. 628A at Km. 173/400-500 in Asst. Divisional Engineer / Sakaleshpur Sub-Division. **Sub Work-2: Hassan - Mangaluru Jn. Section:** Replacement of existing shallow type girder in Bridge No. 473 (1x7.310m) at Km. 129/000-100 with RCC Box of size 1x7.50x4.65m between Kaniuru - Narimogaru (KNYR-NRJ) stations by Rolling / Launching Method.	Rs. 5,50,02,993/-
4	**Hassan - Mangaluru Central Section:** Between Ballupete and Sakaleshpura (BLLT & SKLR) stations, Bridge No. 84 (Existing 1 x 4.57m RCC Slab) at Km. 27/900 - 28/000, proposed replacement of existing RCC slab with PSC slab to 25t Axle Loading - 2008.	Rs. 1,21,10,409/-
5	**Hassan - Mangaluru Jn. Section:** Rehabilitation of Minor bridges No. 134, 136, 139, 162, 163, 196, 226, 235, 236, 242, 301, 302, 314 & 343 by ventway extension, easing of side slope and protective works in Asst. Divisional Engineer / Sakaleshpur Sub division.	Rs. 3,68,59,014/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 04.10.2024**
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/ Mysuru
PUB/423/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that our client intends to purchase the property described in the schedule given from its owners **SRI. GIRISH PRADHAN,** s/o. Late Sri. P.V. Sitaram & **SMT. SANDHYA BELLAVE,** w/o. Sri. Girish Pradhan having their permanent address at No. 1162, Hoskins Lane, San Ramon, California, U.S.A, Zip Code – 94582, presently residing at No.122, Parijata, 3rd Main, Happy Valley layout, Banashankari 5th Stage, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru-560061. Any person or persons other than the Owners named above having any claim or interest in or to the said property, or any part thereof in any manner is/are required to forward their claim/s on or to the property, to the undersigned at their office along with the relevant documents thereof. In the absence of any claims it shall be deemed that there are no such claims or that if there are any claims and they have not been made, it shall be deemed to have been waived and the sale will be executed in my client's favour without any further reference in this regard.
Notice is also hereby given to the general public that the following original title document with respect to the Schedule Property is lost and anybody transacting in respect of the Schedule Property with any person other than Owners shall be doing so at their own risk and the Owners shall not be responsible for the same in any manner. Any person/s locating/finding the aforesaid document may kindly deliver the same at the address given below.
Sale Deed dated 07.02.2006 executed by M/s. Reliaable Lavendula Rep by its partners H. P. Rama Reddy & A. Rama Reddy (both rep. by their SPA Holder Janardhna) in favour of Venugopal Reddy bearing doc no 15633/2005-06.
Schedule Property
All that piece and parcel of the **Vacant Site bearing No. 44,** Property No. **4897654916,** CMC Hebbagodi Katha **No.3727/44** formed in Sy. No. 114 & 115 (duly converted from Agricultural to Non Agricultural Residential purpose, vide Conversion Order No. **ALN (A) SR 18/81-82,** dated **22.03.2005,** issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore and the Layout Approved by BMRDA vide is approval letter date **26/11/2005** bearing No. **BMRDA/LAO/036/2005-06** formed in the layout known as **"RELIAABLE LAVENDULA",** situated at Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, measuring **East to West: 65 Feet,** and **North to South: 40 Feet,** in all measuring **2600 Square Feet** and bounded on the :-
East by : Site. No. 47;
West by : Road;
North by : Site. No. 45;
South by : Site No. 43;
S. Prathibha Advocate
88, 23rd Cross,
3rd Block East, Jayanagar
Bangalore – 560 011

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to the general public that my client **Mr. Ashok Kumar J** have lost the Original Deeds as detailed below; **1.** Doc No GDB-1-00512-2004-05, stored in CD No. GDBD2 Book -1 Dated 19-02-2005, **2.** Discharge Deed No.GDB-1-00053-2015-16, stored in CD No.GDBD31 BOOK-1 DATED 16-04-2015, **3.** Mortgage Deed Doc No.GDB-1-PART-IV-00019-2010-11 CD NO.GDBD14 BOOK-4 DATED 04-12-2010, **4.** Doc No.GDB-1-00403-2015-16 STORED IN CD NO.GDBD31 DATED 29-06-2015, **5.** Sale Deed Doc No.GDB-1-01622-2017-18 STORED IN CD NO.GDBD52 DATED 12-03-2018, **6.** Sale Deed Doc No.000517-2004-05 STORED IN CD NO.GDBD2 DATED 19-02-2005, **7.** Sale Deed Doc No.00514-2004-05 STORED IN CD NO.GDBD2 DATED19-02-2005, **8.** Sale Deed Doc No.GDB-1-00513-2004-05 STORED IN CD NO.GDBD2 DATED 19-02-2005, **9.** Mortgage deed Doc No.GDB-1-V-0022-2020-21 dated 03-11-2020, **10.** Sale Deed GDB-1-00516-2004-05 BOOK-1 STORED IN CD NO.GDBD2 DATED 19-02-2005, **11.** Mortgage Deed Doc No.GDB-1-PART-IV-00166-2004-05 stored in CD No.GDBD2 Dated 15-01-2005, **12.** Sale Deed Doc No-GDB-1-518-2004-05 Book No.1 stored In CD No.GDBD2 Dated 19-02-2005, **13.** Mortgage Deed Doc No.585-2001-02 dated 21-07-2000, **14.** Sale Deed Doc No.GDB-1-00383-2012-13, BOOK-1 stored Cd No.GDBD20 Dated 04-07-2012, **15.** simple Mortgage GDB-1-0114-2012-13 BOOK-1 CD No. GDBD22 DATED 18-01-2013, **16.** Sale Deed Doc No. GDB-1-00027-2005-06 stored in CD No.GDBD2 Book No.1 dated 21-04-2005, **17.** Sale Deed Doc No. GDB-1-00395-2005-06 stored in CD No.GDBD3 Book No.1 Dated 18-11-2005, **18.** Sale Deed Doc No.GDB-1-01191-2015-16 BOOK NO.1 STORED IN CD NO.GDBD32 DATED 23-01-2016 , all the above said documents are registered in Gudibande Sub-Registrar Office. **19.** unregistered Partition deed dated.01.08.2004, **20.** Release Deed Doc No.134-1946-47, Dated 28-09-1946, **21.** Release Deed Doc No-319-1947-48 Dated 26-06-1948, **22.** Sale Deed Doc No-189-1942-43, dated 16-02-1943, **23.** Sale Deed Doc No-417-1976-77 dated 15-02-1977, **24.** Mortgage Deed Doc No.654/80-81 DATED 13-02-1980, **25.** Sale Deed Doc No.687-1965-66 Dated 28-03-1996 registered in Kolar Sub-Registrar Office, **26.** Sale Deed Doc No 9-1970-171 09-04-1970 Dated 09-04-1970, **27.** Sale Deed Doc No.8-1970-71 dated 09-04-1970, all are registered at Kolar Sub-Registrar Office. And **28.** GPA Doc No.JAY-4-00083-2015-16 CD No. JAYD226 Book No.4 Dated 23-04-2015 Registered at Jayanagar Sub-Registrar office.
My client has now notified and informed me that the above said original deeds have been lost and also the complaint of the lost original deeds has been already lodged before the concerned police station authorities bearing lost report numbers 1244208/2024 and 1244243/2024.
Public are informed that the Finder/s of the above said deeds are requested to hand over the same to the undersigned.
Place: Bengaluru,
Date: 17-09-2024
SACHIN YALLARADDI, Advocate, *B.E.,LL.B*
Office: 631, SBI Staff colony, Hosahalli Extension, 7th Main Road, Vijaynagar, Bengaluru-560040
Mob: +91 9482102696

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

BUILDING BLOCKS

What is a telescope?
How good are modern telescopes?

The modern telescope is a window into the universe, a sophisticated paintbrush in the hands of skilled astronomers that brings the fantastical wonders of the cosmos into view. And in so doing, telescopes give us an incomparable sense of our place and remind us of the joy of curiosity and exploration

D-KURU/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Aperture

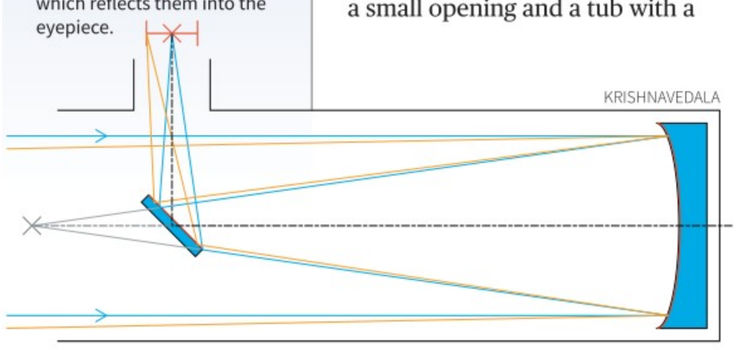
Let's consider the human eye. The opening size that regulates how much light may pass through an optical device is called the aperture. When the eye's pupil is fully dilated, its aperture area is around 153.9 sq. mm. To compare, a 0.07-m reflecting telescope — available as a toy — has an aperture area of 18241.4 sq. mm. This is 118.5-times more light-collecting area.

Lenses

While reflecting telescopes have replaced many refracting ones, these instruments still use lenses, and their ability to refract light, for other purposes. For example, the telescope at the Vera C. Rubin Observatory uses three lenses to help sharpen images. One of these is among the largest of its kind in the world, with a diameter of 1.55 m.

Reflectors

In a reflecting telescope, rays reflected by the primary mirror are diverted to a secondary mirror, which reflects them into an eyepiece with a small lens to enhance the image. Alternatively, a hole is drilled in the primary mirror's centre, and the rays the primary reflects pass through this hole to the secondary, which reflects them into the eyepiece.



KRISHNAVEDALA

LSST

The LSST's 1.55-m corrector lens polished and coated with a broadband antireflective coating.

Eyes on the sky

Many telescopes (see below) have their own claims to fame. For example, the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) — renamed the Vera C. Rubin Observatory — will use an 8.4-metre primary mirror to capture light from large patches of the night sky into the world's largest digital camera.

T.V. Venkateswaran

Celestial objects emit light in all directions. But only light rays travelling in the direction of the earth will reach us. And when these rays reach us after a lengthy journey, they are virtually parallel.

There are two ways to concentrate these rays and create an image. We can use a concave mirror to focus incoming photons at the focus point. The image produced by this reflecting telescope is real, inverted, and smaller. Most contemporary telescopes are such reflecting telescopes. Giant telescopes use parabolic mirrors because light rays reflected from the concave produce several focal points, causing the image to blur. See Reflectors.

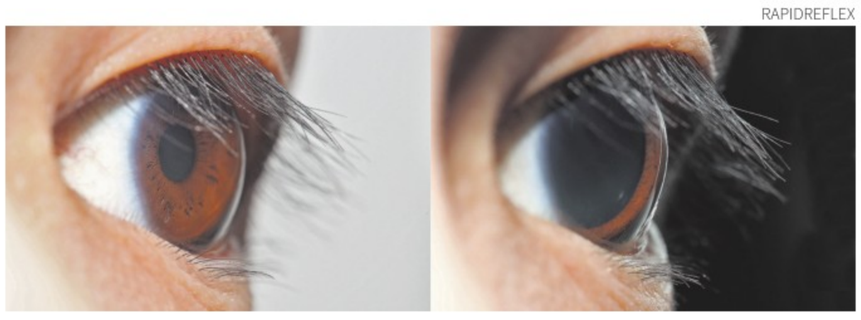
Some telescopes also use lenses to bend light and directly create an image instead of using lenses. This is a refracting telescope. To observe fainter cosmic objects, much bigger lenses are required, which will slump under their own weight and distort the image. The maximum practicable lens size in a refracting telescope is around 1 m. The world's largest refracting telescope is at Yerkes Observatory in the U.S., with a 1.02-m lens.

The primary function of telescopes

It's a common misconception that telescopes are designed to make astronomical objects appear larger. Instead their primary function is to enhance the brightness of celestial objects, measured by their light-gathering power.

Say it's drizzling and you wish to collect rainwater. Place a cup with a small opening and a tub with a larger opening outside. Due to the larger opening, the tub will collect more water than the cup in a given time.

This is what telescopes do with light. *See The Aperture.*



RAPIDREFLEX

Features of telescopes

The brightness of celestial objects is quantified by their apparent magnitude. Its values are logarithmic, meaning each step represents 2.512-times more brightness than the earlier. For example, a star of magnitude 4.0 is 2.512-times brighter than a star of magnitude 5.0.

The lower the apparent magnitude, the brighter the object; the larger the magnitude, the dimmer it is. The sun's apparent magnitude on this scale is -26.78, Venus's is -4.92, and Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky, is -1.46. *For more, see Resolving the Andromeda.*

Why are telescopes setup on mountains?

The earth's tumultuous atmosphere interferes with the telescope's functioning. When starlight passes through the turbulence of air, it twinkles. Even the largest telescopes have a resolution of just 0.3-0.5 arcsec. The higher we go, the less the air is disturbed, which is why most telescopes are erected atop mountains.

Space telescopes are more than 400 km above sea level, allowing them to entirely escape atmospheric disturbances. That is why the Hubble Space Telescope has a resolving power of around 0.04 arcsec, 10-times greater than the best ground-based telescopes.

In recent years, scientists have developed a method to increase the telescope's resolution by correcting for the effects of air turbulence. They use a laser to make an artificial star in the upper atmosphere and then analyse how the guiding star fluctuates. Using this information, the deformable mirror is flexed to correct for distortions.

A more enhanced version of this technology, called tomography, examines segments of the air column and eliminates aberrations to provide a crystal clear image.

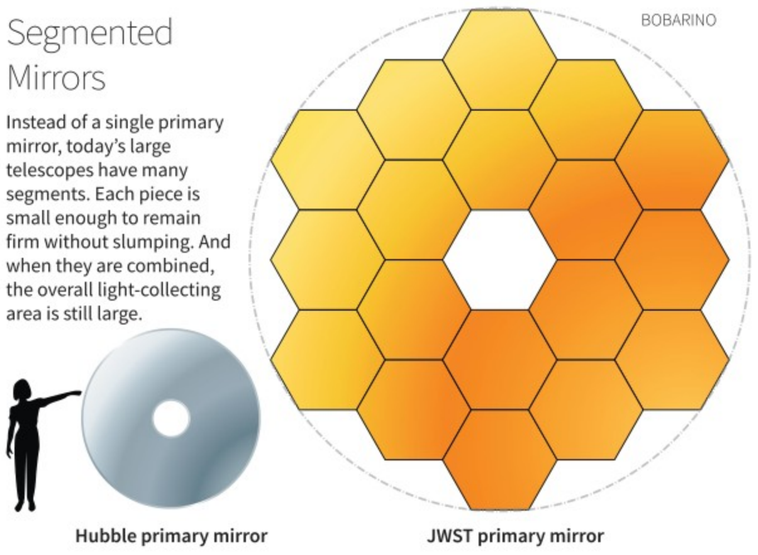
Limits to telescopes

A telescope with a higher limiting magnitude is required to look deep into the universe, which demands a larger primary mirror. However, there is a limit to the size of the primary mirror.

Grab a sheet of newspaper. Hold it only at the edges and try to keep it horizontal. Because of its weight, the sheet will sag and droop. Now reduce the size of the sheet. If the sheet is large enough, it will still droop, but when it's small enough, it will be easy for you to hold it flat. Similarly, a mirror wider than around 8.5 m will sink under its own weight, distorting its surface. *Astronomers have found a solution. See Segmented Mirrors.*

Segmented Mirrors

Instead of a single primary mirror, today's large telescopes have many segments. Each piece is small enough to remain firm without slumping. And when they are combined, the overall light-collecting area is still large.



Advanced telescopes around the world

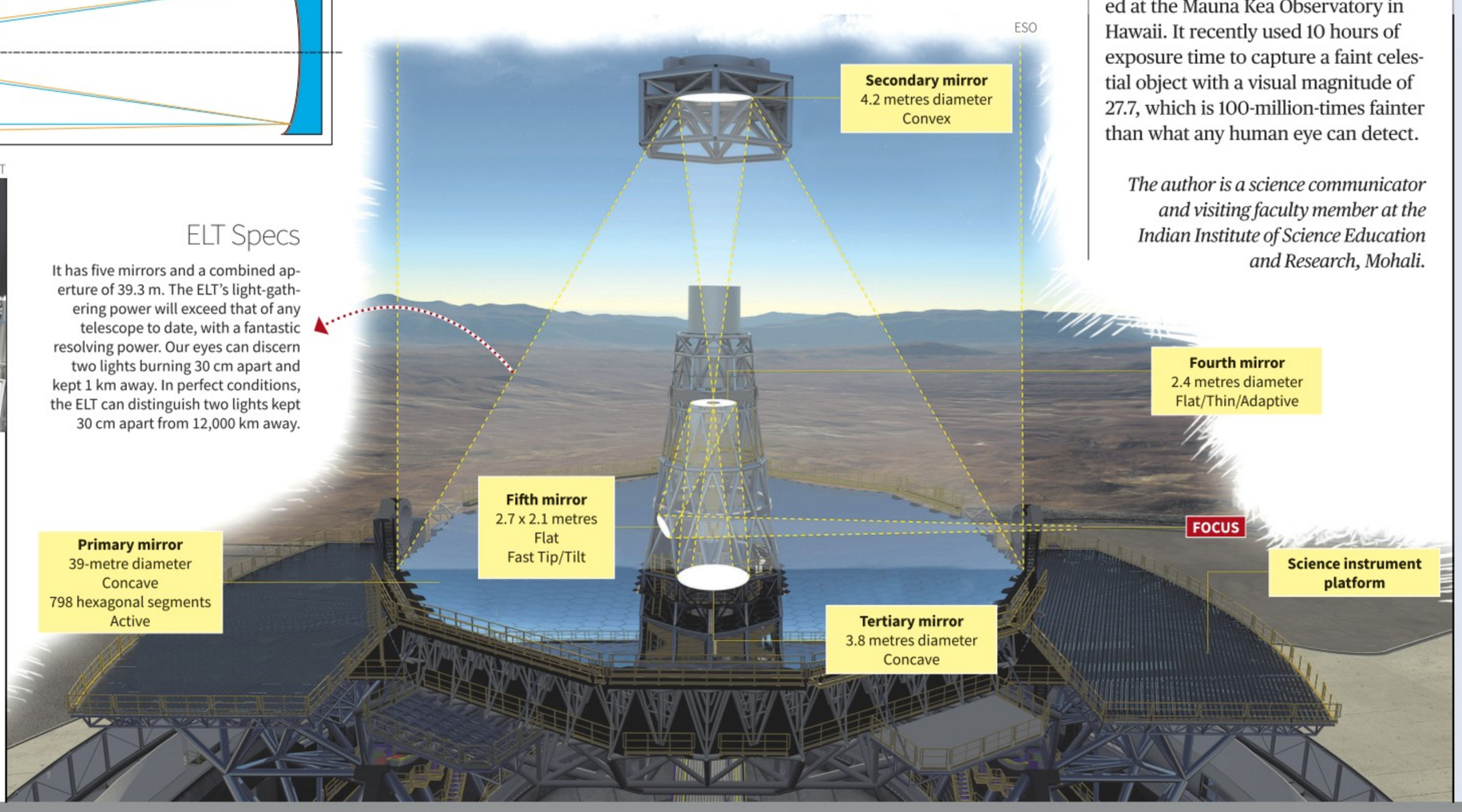
The largest telescope to date is the Large Binocular Telescope (LBT), which has two 8.4-m-wide mirrors and an effective combined aperture of 11.9 m. It is located at the Mount Graham International Observatory in Arizona, USA.

The Extremely Large Telescope (ELT) is under construction atop the Cerro Armazones in the Atacama Desert in Chile, as part of the European Southern Observatory. It is expected to be completed by 2028. *See ELT Specs for its aperture.*

Astronomers also increase the exposure time to better observe distant cosmic objects. Even a cup left in a drizzle for an extended duration will become full with rainwater. Similarly, by keeping the camera's shutter mounted to the telescope open for a protracted period, we may record dimmer light sources. Telescopes expose instruments called charge-coupled devices to light from target sources for many hours before combining them to generate a composite image.

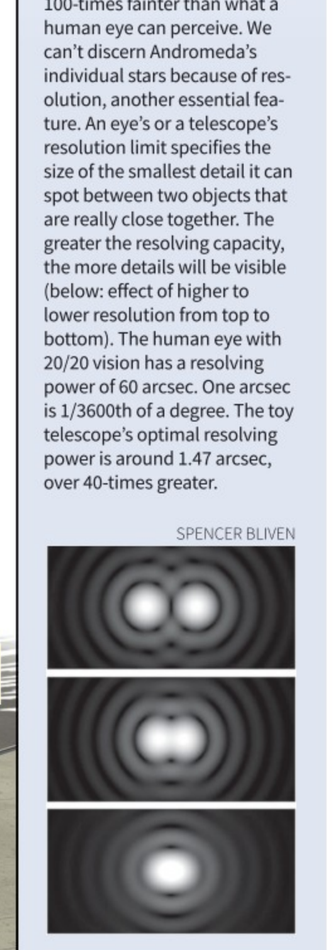
The Subaru Telescope is an 8.2-m-wide Japanese telescope located at the Mauna Kea Observatory in Hawaii. It recently used 10 hours of exposure time to capture a faint celestial object with a visual magnitude of 27.7, which is 100-million-times fainter than what any human eye can detect.

The author is a science communicator and visiting faculty member at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali.



ELT Specs

It has five mirrors and a combined aperture of 39.3 m. The ELT's light-gathering power will exceed that of any telescope to date, with a fantastic resolving power. Our eyes can discern two lights burning 30 cm apart and kept 1 km away. In perfect conditions, the ELT can distinguish two lights kept 30 cm apart from 12,000 km away.

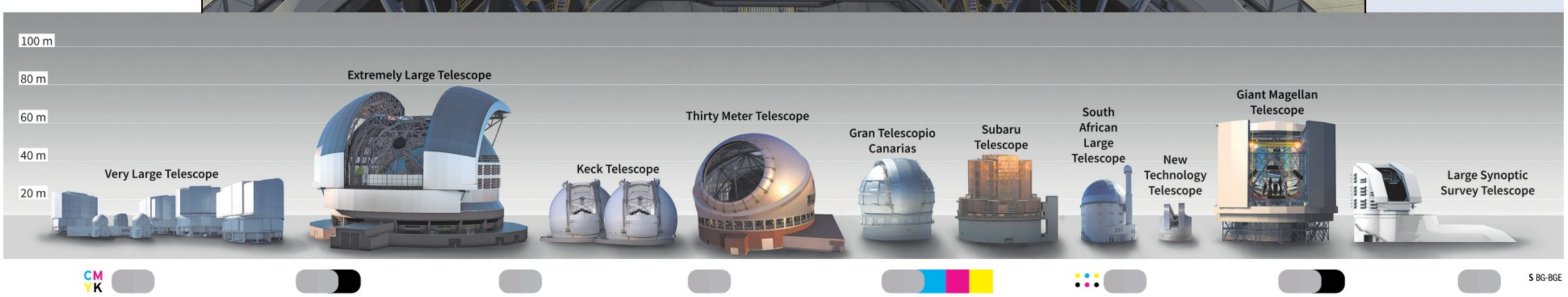


DAVID DAYAG

Resolving the Andromeda

The Andromeda Galaxy has trillions of stars and an apparent magnitude of +3.44. It's the furthest object we can see with our eyes. It appears as a fuzzy patch and we can't discern individual stars. The star V762 Cas is 1,000,000-times brighter than the Sun. But because it is 16,000 lightyears away, it has an apparent magnitude of only +5.82. It's the faintest star visible to the naked eye. The limiting magnitude is the brightness of the faintest object visible to an optical instrument. Anything fainter will be lost to this instrument. The human eye's limiting magnitude in ideal conditions is +6.5 while that of the toy telescope is +11.2. So the telescope will reveal objects 100-times fainter than what a human eye can perceive. We can't discern Andromeda's individual stars because of resolution, another essential feature. An eye's or a telescope's resolution limit specifies the size of the smallest detail it can spot between two objects that are really close together. The greater the resolving capacity, the more details will be visible (below: effect of higher to lower resolution from top to bottom). The human eye with 20/20 vision has a resolving power of 60 arcsec. One arcsec is 1/3600th of a degree. The toy telescope's optimal resolving power is around 1.47 arcsec, over 40-times greater.

SPENCER BLIVEN



Gurdwara Sri Baoli Sahib,
Sri Goindwal Sahib

Observing the

450th Joti Jot Diwas

of

Third Sikh Guru

SRI GURU AMARDAS JI

2220/13/259/2023/37735

Punjab Government

led by

Chief Minister

Bhagwant Singh Mann

respectfully reminisces
the eternal teachings of the
Revered Third Sikh Guru,
the embodiment of devotion, equality and
selfless service. May timeless teachings of
Guru Sahib always inspire one and all to tread
on the path of righteousness and compassion
for the welfare of humanity.

Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

Cabinet resolves to seek Central grant of ₹5,000 cr. for KK region

It also decides to establish separate secretariat for effective implementation of Article 371 (J) of the Constitution

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The State Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the Regional Commissioner's office in Kalaburagi on Tuesday decided to demand ₹5,000 crore for the development of Kalyana Karnataka region, which has been accorded special status under Article 371 (J) of the Constitution.

Addressing a media conference after the Cabinet meeting, the Chief Minister said the Union government "had not given a single rupee" after the region got the special status in 2012.

The Cabinet also decided to establish a separate secretariat for effective implementation of Article 371 (J) of the Constitution.

Key decisions: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, flanked by Ministers, briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting in Kalaburagi on Tuesday. ARUN KULKARNI

State's share

"We have announced ₹5,000 crore special grants to the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB) every year. We have kept our word by giving ₹5000 crore for 2024-25. The Union government has not given a single rupee [to the KKRDB] in the last 10 years after the Constitution was amended to insert Article 371(J) to give special status to the region. We have, therefore, passed a resolution demanding ₹5,000 crore," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Other major decisions of the Cabinet included upgrading the Bidar and Raichur city municipal councils (CMCs) to city municipal corporations, filling all 17,439 vacancies in different government departments in the region in a phased manner, establishing 45 new primary health centres (PHCs), upgrading 31 PHCs to community health centres (CHCs), upgrading nine CHCs to taluk hospitals, and upgrading two taluk hospitals to district hospitals, in the seven districts of the region.

56 issues discussed

"A total of 56 subjects were discussed in the Cabinet meeting today, of which 46 are related to Kalyana Karnataka. The total amount of money approved for implementing different projects under the 56 subjects was ₹12,692 crore of which ₹11,770 crore will go to Kalyana Karnataka region's 46 subjects," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

To a question, the Chief Minister said a committee with economist Govinda Rao as its chairperson was formed to evaluate the present state of 119 taluks identified by the D.M. Najundappa Committee as backward taluks.

"A high-powered committee for redressal of regional imbalances headed by economist Nanjundappa was formed in 2002 when S.M. Krishna was Chief Minister. Now, we need to evaluate the current status of the backward taluks identified by the Nanjundappa committee. For this purpose, we have formed a committee headed by Dr. Govinda Rao which will submit a report within six months making further recommendations to redress the imbalance, if any," Mr. Siddaramiah said.

A publicity stunt: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP has termed the holding of the Cabinet meeting in Kalaburagi by the Congress government as a publicity stunt and wondered if that would help the development of the backward Kalyana Karnataka region if the government does not show commitment towards implementing its promises made for this region.

Taking to social media, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok posed a series of questions to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on the poll promises made by the Congress that he alleged had not been implemented adequately.

Among other things, he asked why the promise of setting up an apparel factory at a cost of ₹5,000 crore in Ballari is yet to materialise and why not even a single college has been set up though the government had made a promise of setting up 100 PUC colleges in the region.

Rebellion surfaces again in BJP with Jarkiholi questioning Vijayendra

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The rebellion in the Opposition BJP in the State has again come to the fore at a crucial time when the party is keen to up the ante against the Congress government and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Disgruntled leader and former Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi has publicly stated that he is not willing to accept the leadership of BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra.

"He is too junior and does not know anything about the party's ideology. In fact, Mr. Vijayendra has given the party the label of being corrupt. We will not accept him as our leader. But we accept his father and veteran as our leader," Mr. Jarkiholi told reporters.

Mr. Jarkiholi, who is among a group of leaders who have been publicly criticising Mr. Vijayendra's leadership for quite some time, indirectly hit out at Mr. Yediyurappa too. "After the death of Ananth Kumar, the party has not seen any big leader in Karnataka. Instead of providing authority to any particular leader, the party should opt for collective leadership. We should prevent

Ramesh Jarkiholi

the tendency of the party coming under the stranglehold of any one particular leader," he said.

Collective leadership

He suggested that the party should opt for collective leadership by giving responsibility to 15-20 leaders, including himself and senior leader Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, who is at the forefront of attacking Mr. Vijayendra. "Let the party give specific tasks. We will be able to ensure that it wins 120 to 130 Assembly seats next time," he said. "We have respect for Yediyurappa. But he has aged. Let him take rest at home. We will take his advice by visiting him if need be," Mr. Jarkiholi said.

Vijayendra's response

Responding sharply to this, Mr. Vijayendra maintained that despite such remarks by the detractors, the party leadership and seniors, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, national president J.P. Nadda, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, had appointed him as State president as they had trust in him. "Whether somebody accepts me or not, I am effectively implementing the responsibility given to me by party veterans. I am satisfied that after an agitation of three months, we have made the Congress government stand on its toes. Party workers are enthusiastic and I am happy," he maintained.

On his part, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok sought to downplay the development by saying that it was nothing new. "This problem has been there for quite some time. Both Mr. Yatnal and Mr. Jarkiholi are in touch with party central leaders and they have said that they will abide by whatever the centre decides. We (State unit) have no role in it," he maintained.

Interestingly, none of the measures initiated by the party central leadership or informal initiatives by the RSS leadership appear to have turned effective as both the rival camps have been publicly expressing their differences.

'Bagair hukum' committee *prima facie* acted 'bagair kanoon': HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that the "bagair hukum committee *prima facie* has acted *bagair kanoon*", the High Court of Karnataka has refused to quash a criminal case registered against the former MLA for Belur and others for alleged illegality in regularising about 2,750 acres of government land worth ₹750 crore in favour of around 1,430 bogus beneficiaries between 2016-22.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while rejecting the petition filed by former MLA Lingesh K.S., who headed the Bagair Hukum Saguvali Samiti (Unauthorised Cultivation Regularisation Committee) for the Beluru Assembly constituency, and eight others, who had served as members of the committee along with the then MLA.

Lingesh K.S. FILE PHOTO

FIR registered

The First Information Report (FIR) was registered against them following a direction issued by the Special Court of Magistrate for criminal cases against former and present MLAs and MPs based on a private complaint lodged by social worker K.C. Rajanna, who had approached the special court last year as his complaints to the police and senior police officers remained unattended to.

The High Court found the inquiry report submitted to the Deputy Commissioner of Hassan, by the Assistant Commissioner (AC) in October 2022, pointed out that original applications for regularisation were not there in 99% of the files presented to the committee during 2016-22 for regularisation of government land under illegal cultivation of private

Court refuses to quash criminal case against former MLA for Belur

persons, and the files were processed based on handwritten ledger extracts prepared by village accountants.

Non-conduct of inspection of the land parcels by tahsildars, destruction of records to evade proof, regularisation in favour of fake beneficiaries based on fake family genealogical certificates notarised, and in favour of minors and also those not even belonging to Belur taluk, were among other large-scale illegalities pointed out in the AC's report, the High Court noted while pointing out that the AC had also found alleged involvement of some tahsildars who had served during this period.

'As if private property'

The AC's report "unmistakably, albeit *prima facie*, led to a conclusion that government land parcels are illegally bartered away as if they are the personal properties of members of the samiti and the office is treated as their personal fiefdom. It is not one, 10 or 100 acres, the land parcels that were bartered away are 2,750 acres, which were then valued at ₹750 crore," the court said.

If the criminal proceedings are closed against the petitioners, the court said, "It would be putting a premium on the illegality committed by the chairman and members of the committee and accepting bartering away of government lands as if they are self-acquired private properties of the chairman and members of the samiti. This is sans countenance, by any canon of law. This matter would require investigation in the least, as it involves maze of facts."

However, the High Court made it clear that its observations are limited to deciding the petition and would not bind or influence the proceedings pending against them.

DKS urges Vokkaliga leaders to speak up on MLA's 'caste slurs'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday called upon leaders, seers, and members of the Vokkaliga community to air their views against arrested BJP MLA Munirathna's alleged caste slurs.

Speaking to media persons here after returning from a week-long U.S. visit, he said, "There are tall leaders in the Vokkaliga community. They must speak now about Munirathna's remarks. Vokkaliga leaders in the BJP too must speak. They need to call a spade a spade in Munirathna's caste slurs on Vokkaligas and Dalits."

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok, sarcastically referred to the Congress leaders' concern for the community and said, "If the Congress has so much love for Vokkaligas, let them replace Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with a Vokkaliga leader."

Munirathna remanded in judicial custody

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two days after BJP MLA for R.R. Nagar Munirathna was arrested and taken into police custody for questioning in connection with a case of intimidating a civic contractor and demanding a bribe, the Special Court of Magistrate for criminal cases against former and present MPs and MLAs remanded him in 14 days judicial custody on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Mr. Munirathna's counsel moved the court seeking bail in the first case of bribery and criminal intimidation, and anticipatory bail in the second case registered against him under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, over casteist slurs against members of an SC community. The police opposed his bail plea and sought his custody for a few more days. However, the court remanded him in judicial custody and adjourned the hearing of bail petitions till Wednesday.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Notice is hereby given to Public is hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned schedule property from its owner **SRI. VINOD SIVARAJ** S/o Sri. Shivaraj, Residing at Flat No. A-202, Byravi Cruz Luxury Apartment, Chelikere Main Road, Chelikere, Kalyananagar Post, Bangalore-560 043. Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever in respect of said property by way of sale, inheritance, bequest, exchange, gift, possession, trust, Mortgage, lease, license, lien, charge, tenancy, lis pendency, development rights, maintenance, easement, or under any agreement of sale or Power of Attorney, option, right of first refusal or pre-emption whatsoever or otherwise howsoever, is hereby required to make the same known in writing with documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below **within 10 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the sale transaction shall be completed without any reference to such right, title, interest, claim or demand & the same shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents & purposes. Claims without documentary proofs and/or objections directly published in Newspaper shall not be considered as Valid.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.1
All that piece and Parcel of the Agricultural Land **bearing Survey No. 16/2, measuring 1 Acre 19 Guntas situated at THAMMASHETTIHALLI VILLAGE,** Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk and Bangalore rural District, and bounded on the; East By: Sy No. 17 belongs to Vinod Sivaraj West By : Sri. Venkatappa's Property North By : Sy No. 109 South By: Sri.Chandrappa and Kumarappa's Property

Item No.2
All that piece and Parcel of the Converted Land **bearing Survey No. 17/1 (old Sy No. 17), measuring 1 Acre 36 Guntas situated at THAMMASHETTIHALLI VILLAGE,** Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk and Bangalore rural District, and bounded on the; East By: Sri. Munivenkatashamappa's Land West By: Land in Sy No. 16/2 North By : Land in Sy No. 109 South By : Sri. Chandrappa and Kumarappa's Property

Item No.3
All that piece and Parcel of the Converted Land **bearing Survey No. 109/8 (old Sy No. 109/5), measuring 0-03 Guntas situated at SHIVAPURA VILLAGE,** Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk and Bangalore rural District, and bounded on the; East By : Property belongs to Nagappa West By : Property belongs to Muniraju & Others North By: Doddaballapur to Devanahalli Main Road South By: Property belongs to Vinod Sivaraj

Sd/- HANUMANTH R. Advocate
Mobile: 96206 97201
Sri. PRAVEEN KUMAR RODDAM
S/o Surendra Babu Roddam
Residing at #A-1002, 10th Floor
Bairavi Cruz Laxury Apartment
Chelekeri Main Road,
Opp: to St. Rocks church,
Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043
Mobile: 95381 00008
This property is in transaction, if any objection/enquiries?
Contact Mobile No. 96206 97201 & 88844 40341
Place : Bangalore Date: 18-09-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public, that our client **Smt.SONIA SINGH**, wife of Sri. Gurjit Singh, residing at No.25, 2nd Main, Defence Colony, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560 038, has either lost or mislaid the original of Sale Deed dated 01/03/1995, registered as Document No.141/95, in Book-I at Pages 489 to 492, in the Office of Sub-Registrar, Urgham, Tamil Nadu, executed by M/s.Tourism Resorts Private Limited in favour of my client pertaining to the Property bearing RS No.1055/3 measuring 5.22 Cents in Udhagam Mangalam, Town Municipality, Udhagam Mangalam Joint Sub-District and Nilgiris Registration District. In this regard, a Police complaint is lodged before jurisdictional Police Station, Bangalore on 30/08/2024. Public are hereby notified that if any one finds the Sale Deed dated 01/03/1995 detailed above, they may deliver the same to the undersigned or to our aforesaid client immediately. If anyone deals with the above referred Sale Deed dated 01/03/1995 or makes any claim on the property detailed in the Sale deed on the basis of it other than our client, he/she/they will not derive any right and will not binding our client.

YASEEN BABU,
K.M Legal Advocates,
No.1C,'WILOCRISA', #14,
Rest House Crescent Road,
Bangalore-560 001.
Email: kmlegaladvocates@gmail.com
Phone: +91 98458 55933
Bangalore Date: 17/09/2024

₹2 crore for renovation of Shivapura Soudha

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has directed the Finance Department to release ₹2 crore for the renovation of the historical Shivapura Satyagraha Soudha, constructed to commemorate the Flag Satyagraha of 1938, at Maddur in Mandya district.

The Flag Satyagraha was a major event in the struggle for freedom from the British. The architecturally unique monument, built at Maddur, 25 km from Mandya and on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway, is in a neglected State. The soudha lacks basic infrastructure and security arrangements.

A file photo of the Shivapura Satyagraha Soudha, constructed to mark the Flag Satyagraha of 1938, at Maddur in Mandya district.

Congress MLC Dinesh Guli Gowda, who was elected from the local bodies constituency in Mandya district, had urged the Chief Minister, who also holds the Finance portfolio, to sanction funds for the renovation of the monument. Mr. Siddaramaiah has directed Finance Department officials to release ₹2 crore for undertaking development works to restore the grandeur of the monument. Students and tourists have not been visiting the monument owing to poor maintenance, Mr. Guli Gowda said in a letter to the Chief Minister.

The monument is a symbol of patriotic fervour. Following a call by Mahatma Gandhi, a large number of people from the Old Mysore region participated in the Satyagraha at Shivapura in 1938 to assert the right to hoist the national flag, defying British rule. Hoisting the national flag was banned by the British rulers then.

Opened in 1979

To commemorate the historic event, the State government constructed the soudha and it was opened on September 26, 1979. It was built under the guidance of a trust headed by former Chief Minister late Kengal Hanumanthaiya.

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
CENTRAL WORKSHOP, RASULGARH,BHUBANESWAR -751010 (ODISHA)
Tel- 0674-2580107, E-mail: gmocclcws@gmail.com
(GSTIN-21AAACO2571K2ZM)

"e" - Procurement Notice No.22/OCCL/2024-25 (on-line)

Type of work : "Supply of casting items for 130T Rope Drum Hoist for Spillway Radial gates of Kanupur Irrigation Project (Phase-I) "
Total No. of work : 01 (One).
Period of Supply : 120 (One Hundred Twenty) days.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	EMD through on-line transfer system	Cost of Tender document (Including GST) through on-line transfer system	Availability of Tender (On-line)	Submission of Bid (On-line)
General Manager (Mech.), OCC Ltd., Central Workshop, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar	OCCL-MECH/ CWS/ 05/2024-25	Rs.1,30,000/-	Rs.11,800/- (Non-refundable)	18.09.2024 10.00 AM to 03.10.2024 5.00 PM	18.09.2024 10.00 AM to 03.10.2024 5.00 PM

Date of opening of the Technical Bid : 04.10.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
Amendment/corrigendum/cancellation, if any shall be posted on-line only.

GENERAL MANAGER (MECH.)
CAD-1121 OIPR-34163/11/0021/2425

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

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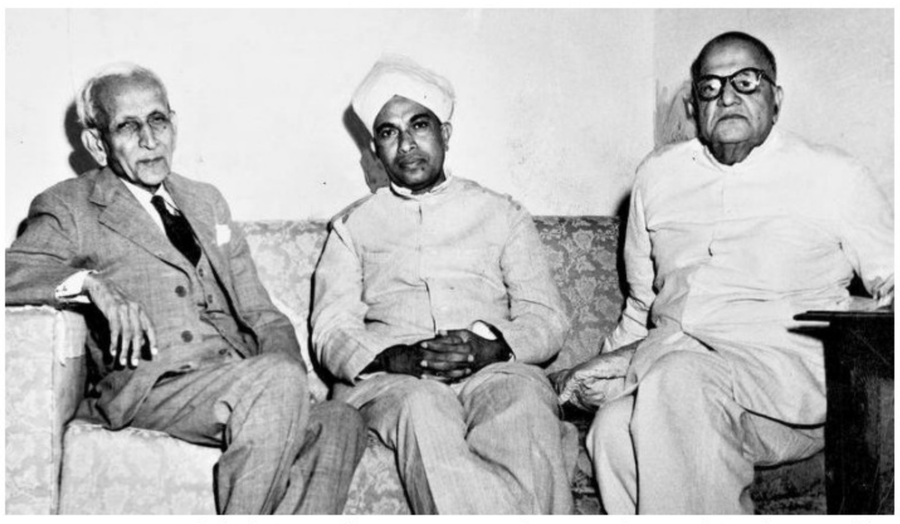
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Sir M. Visvesvaraya: Remembering the quintessential planner, engineer of Karnataka

At a recent talk held to mark Engineer's Day on September 15, Arun Pai, the co-founder of Bangalore Walks, delved into the life and achievement of the eminent statesman and nation builder

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU



Sir M. Visvesvaraya with Chief Minister of Mysore State Kengal Hanumanthaiya and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission, V.T. Krishnamachari during a meeting in Mysore in 1954. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

The iron and steel plant at Bhadravati.

The year was 1909. Sir M. Visvesvaraya, who had been working in the Bombay Presidency, had finally agreed to return to his home turf at the invitation of the Dewan of Mysore V.P. Madhava Rao and become the princely State's chief engineer.

"He wasn't keen to take the job," says Arun Pai, the co-founder of Bangalore Walks, who delivered a lecture on this eminent statesman and nation builder on September 15 to mark Engineer's Day. Visvesvaraya finally agreed, but he had a condition: the State should focus on industrialisation and also invest in technical education. "We have the most engineering colleges in this country today, probably in the world, but there was not a single one in 1909," Pai recounts at the illustrated talk at The Bangalore Room, Indiranagar.

Sir M. Visvesvaraya

A railway terminal in Bengaluru named after the statesman.

The Krishnaraja Sagar built across the Cauvery near Mysuru.

Sir M. Visvesvaraya with his grandnephew.

Back in home State

The Dewan seems to have accepted his condition, and Visvesvaraya was back in his home State. Interestingly, that very same year, another significant development took place in the Mysore State. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) was set up in Bengaluru. Pai goes into why this city was chosen among several contenders, including Mumbai.

According to him, Bengaluru had several things going for it, as outlined in a report written by Sir William Ramsay in 1900. The Scottish chemist (he eventually won the Nobel Prize in 1904 for the discovery of noble gases) had been invited to India to study the proposal for the new research institute and make final recommendations, including his suggestion for where the institute should be established.

He (Ramsay) offered three major reasons for why Bengaluru should be IISc's home, says Pai. For starters, the city was not far away from the Shivanasamudra Falls where a hydroelectric power station was to come up (in 1905, Bengaluru became the first city in Asia to get electricity); it had access to gold, thanks to the Kolar Gold Fields some 100 km away; and most importantly, the Kingdom of Mysore was willing to give land for the project, which made it viable.

"Viability was everything, so IISc came to Bangalore in 1909," says Pai, who thinks of it as an "incredible fate" that both the institute and Sir Visvesvaraya landed up together at the same time and place. "Over the next 40 years, they're going to work together and change everything," he says, listing some of the key outputs of this long collaboration, including the government sandalwood oil factory, government soap factory, Mysore sugar company, among others. "Today, we talk about academics and manufacturing not collaborating enough. How fortunate we were that IISc and Sir MV came to the city at the same time," says Pai.

Humble origins

Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya was born at Muddenahalli, a village 7 km from Karnataka's Chickballapur, in the same year Mark Cubbon left India: 1861. He was born to a family that had once been wealthy but whose fortunes had been considerably altered by the fall of Tipu Sultan in the 1799 Battle of Srirangapatna and its subsequent ramifications. "After the war, Chickballapur was dissolved and absorbed into Mysore," says Pai. The change in politics, he adds, resulted in the family losing their land and possessions, and by the time he (Visvesvaraya) was born, they were deeply in debt and courting penury. "He was born in this very poor situation."

This slight-built boy – so slender that a relative once remarked that he was unlikely to reach 30 – was brought up by his mother since "his father was spiritual and had no time for the son", remarks Pai, showcasing an early picture of Visvesvaraya outside his ancestral home, dressed in black with an immaculately-tied turban. He did his early schooling in nearby Chickballapur before moving to Bengaluru, where his maternal uncle, H. Ramaiah, lived.

A few decades prior, there had been a dramatic change in the education system in India. "You had the famous Macaulay Minute," says Pai, referring to a key document formulated by the British historian and politician Thomas Babington Macaulay in 1835, which helped formulate the British educational policy in India. Therefore, like all Macaulay children of that era, Visvesvaraya, who studied at the Wesleyan Mission High School in Bengaluru, received an English education, graduating at the top of his class in his matriculation examination. Since he came first, this family realised that he had a future and needed to go to college, says Pai.

That is how Visvesvaraya found himself at Central College in Bengaluru, where he supported himself with tutoring and went on to graduate in 1881. The year saw another serendipitous event in Mysore's history. "Mysore came back to the Mysoreans," points out Pai, referring to the Rendition Act of 1881, an instrument that restored the princely State of Mysore to its Wadiyar rulers.

One of the many positive things that came out of this was the roll-out of a scholarship that allowed the Mysore State's best students to study outside the State.

The scheme was the brainchild of C.V. Rangacharlu, the first Dewan of Chamaraja Wadiyar X, who had ascended the throne. For Visvesvaraya, who had wanted to become an engineer, this proved to be fortuitous. He applied for the scholarship and got it, going on to study at the College of Science in Pune, the only engineering college in the country back then. "He spends two years in Pune, does what is called a diploma and becomes an engineer," says Pai.

Spirit of the times

While Visvesvaraya's achievements are certainly a result of his own grit, hard work and tenacity, his life was also clearly shaped by all that was happening around him globally and in the country. As Pai points out, he came of age around the time of the Second Industrial Revolution, the period between 1870 and 1914 marked by a series of path-breaking developments, including the invention of the telephone, the electrification of manufacturing methods, large-scale steel production, and the immense expansion of the railways.

"A lot of it flowed back to India in places like Calcutta, Madras, and Bangalore," says Pai, who believes that the young Visvesvaraya would have definitely had some exposure to these new technologies.

In 1884, after graduating first in his class, he joined the Bombay Presidency as an assistant engineer, an "incredibly prestigious" achievement for a young man from Mysore, a State that didn't even have an engineering college. Over the next few decades, he would more than prove himself, over and over again, whether it was his setting up or an innovative collector well in Sukkur, coming up with a novel block irrigation system, solving Hyderabad's flooding problem, or building an innovative automatic sluice gate at Khadakwasla in Pune. "Essentially, before electricity came, finding out how to deal with water so that a reservoir can handle more capacity was a system that nobody else in the world had done," says Pai, adding that Visvesvaraya even took out a patent on this technology. "He was ahead of his time at a global level."

Pai also delved into some of Visvesvaraya's major contributions to the princely State of Mysore in his roles as chief engineer and, later, Dewan of Mysore. Some of these include constructing the famed Krishnaraja Sagar reservoir, setting up of the Bhadravati steel plant (which later became a PSU named after him), helping establish the Mysore agriculture residential school at Hebbal in 1913, and appointing the Canadian entomologist and plant pathologist Leslie Coleman as its first director, expanding the State's railway network, establishing the State's first university, and the setting up of an effective banking system in the State.

Ever curious

Pai, in his talk, also alludes to Visvesvaraya' s multiple trips abroad, all self-sponsored, a testament to his desire to learn about new technologies being developed in other countries. Visvesvaraya, who was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1955, met with many key national leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi. Pai, referring to Gandhi and Visvesvaraya as "people who were incredibly different ideologically," showcased some of the letters exchanged between the two. He also added that India's most famous engineer, a stickler for punctuality, was always impeccably dressed and groomed, in his three-piece suit and Mysore Peta.

Visvesvaraya had big dreams for the city of Bengaluru, says Pai, towards the end of his talk. "He (Visvesvaraya) said that we need a ring road for efficiency," he adds, going on to talk about another "brilliant" suggestion that he made: constructing a walking park between Cubbon Park and Lal Bagh, an idea that sadly never did fructify.

Ubiquitous personality

Luckily, the city has not forgotten his contributions – it has multiple academic institutions, a science museum, a road, and even a metro station named after him.

"You will see his photograph in every government office you go to," mentions Pai. Visvesvaraya has even won a poll for being the most popular Kannadiga ever, he points out "He (Visvesvaraya) had this famous saying: talk less, do more. But I think with Sir MV, we talk a lot, but we are not living up to what he is about."

IIMB inaugurates BBA in Digital Business and Entrepreneurship

Prof. Suresh Bhagavatula outlined BBA DBE's focus on blending digital awareness with core business skills

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian Institute of Management Bangalore. K. MURALI KUMAR

IIM Bangalore inaugurated the BBA in Digital Business and Entrepreneurship (BBA DBE) programme on September 16 in a virtual session.

According to a press release, the session brought together eminent speakers – including IIMB Director Rishikesha T. Krishnan; K. Sanjay Murthy, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of India; Devi Shetty, Chairman, Narayana Health; Mukesh Bansal, CEO of Curefit & Founder of Meraki Labs; Vasanthi Srinivasan, OB & HRM area, and Chairperson, Digital Learning; and Suresh Bhagavatula, Entrepreneurship area, and Chairperson BBA (DBE) – to address the inaugural cohort attending the session.

"Our goal is to extend high-quality education to undergraduate students nationwide," said Prof. Krishnan in his opening address. He also emphasised the need to merge traditional business management with the evolving demands of digital businesses, ensuring a rich, interactive learning experience for the inaugural cohort of over 1,000 students.

Suresh Bhagavatula outlined BBA DBE's focus on blending digital awareness with core business skills.

"Our aim is to prepare students for a digitally-driven world," he said.

"The curriculum includes 30% on emerging digital business technologies, 30% on core business topics like finance, operations & marketing, and emphasizes an entrepreneurial mindset. It features community-building through internships and projects with NSRCEL, one of India's leading business incubators, offering flexible exit options and highly engaging content–all while complying with UGC and other national guidelines," he further added.

Dr. Devi Shetty celebrated the programme's launch as a significant step toward making higher education more accessible in India. He remarked, "In an era where education has become elitist, IIMB's new programme opens doors for students who previously could only dream of such opportunities".

High standards

Mukesh Bansal discussed the programme's potential to revolutionise education by ensuring high standards and accessibility. Drawing on his experience in e-commerce, he stressed the "importance of understanding consumer behaviour through a digital-native lens and encouraged students to take ownership of their learning journey."

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 18, 1974

Cut in Seats in Medical College Challenged

Bangalore, Sept. 17: Mr. Justice E. S. Venkataramlah in the Karnataka High Court today admitted a writ petition of Mr. H. Guru Prasad, a candidate for admission to the Kasturba Medical College of Manipal, challenged a directive of the Central Government, reducing the number of students to be admitted in the college from 150 to 100.

The Medical Council of India had recommended derecognition of the Kasturba Medical College. The Centre did not accept the recommendation but reduced the quota of admission from ISO to 100.

The petitioner was given a seat in the first year course of the MBBS course But while he was planning to join the college, he received a communication from the college authorities that the admission was cancelled because of the Central Government's directive but it was prepared to admit him, if the Central Govt. withdrew its directive.

CITYBEATS

Hello October

ONGOING
Be a part of this month-long Bavarian bliss at Ironhill Brewery, that is celebrating Oktoberfest and binge on a selection of seasonal craft beers, specially brewed just for this festive occasion. The festival, which commenced on September 16 will conclude on October 15.
At Ironhill, Marathahalli. Call 9606044623 / 24 to reserve your place.

Break that fast

ONGOING
Maverick & Farmer has introduced a new breakfast menu with vegan options. Along with egg Benedict and French toast, one can find democratic eggs platter, Turkish eggs, vegan chickpea omelette, oat milk and sourdough pancakes, and more on the menu.
Weekdays at Maverick & Farmer, Koramangala. Call 99166 33556

Sneak peek

SEPTEMBER 21, 22
This one is for sneaker freaks. The Ultimate Sneaker Fest is on its way, celebrating sneaker culture, style and exclusivity. The two-day long festival is an attempt to unite sneaker enthusiasts and offers rare, limited-edition releases and vintage footwear along with iconic designs from leading brands.
At Phoenix Mall of Asia. Entry by registration.

On stage and on par

The sixth edition of Bhoomuja's Jackfruit festival for children, commences with a concert by children from Shrishti Special Academy

Shilpa Anandraj

Acceptance and inclusivity Rehearsals underway for the festival, Suchi Somashekhariah (below). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bhoomija's sixth edition of the Jackfruit Festival for children will be held in Bengaluru between September 20 and 22. Shubha Mudgal returns as a festival director. Organised in association with Indian Music Experience Museum, the event is supported by Arundhati Moorthi Philanthropies and this year's edition will feature concerts, and workshops.

Persons with disabilities (PWD) from the Shrishti Special Academy, will present the inaugural concert, Sunny Symphony. The concert celebrates inclusion at every level and is directed by musician and singer MD Pallavi. The young performers will present a range of popular Kannada and regional songs with Pallavi.

"Leading the inaugural concert with students of Shristi Special Academy is a profound expression of what inclusivity in the arts looks like," says Pallavi. "This performance is a powerful reminder that music transcends all barriers, offering every participant, regardless of their background, a chance to shine."

Singing Into the Future 2.0, Shubha Mudgal's flagship creation for the festival will will feature tabla maestro Aneesh Pradhan and showcase a vocal ensemble of child prodigies from across the country. In addition to this, there will be workshops for aspiring musicians and music lovers led by maestros such as Shruti Sadolikar, Ratnamala Prakash, Aneesh Pradhan, Purbayan Chatterjee, and Bengaluru-based beatboxer Vineeth Vincent.

As part of Bhoomija and IME's' community outreach initiative, musicians such as Jayachandra Rao and Vasu Dixit will conduct workshops on the premises of different educational institutions. "This festival represents our commitment to nurturing a diverse array of voices and ensuring that every tradition is both honored and explored," says Shubha Mudgal.

Suchi Somashekhariah is a special educator, who has been instrumental in starting Shrishti Special Academy and has been working with special needs children for the past three decades. She says Shrishti's foray into the Jackfruit festival was organic.

"One of our volunteers knows the people at Bhoomija. She helps us with networking and partner interface, creating awareness and helped connect us with Bhoomija, who did a concert for us last year. We visit IME with the children. We work with children with disabilities of all ages and have children with autism, cerebral palsy and intellectual disability and so on."

The 60-year-old special educator says music is a part of therapy for the children. "It heals and calms the mind and even peps the quiet mind. We believe art forms are critical for the holistic development of our children. Music attracts the right soul and when this happens, language or genre do not matter. Our children love and enjoy music, which is soft and gentle most of the time. It has not been a challenge to get them to connect to music."

The concert will see the children present classical music, says Suchi. "There will be eight children who will sing, and an additional 12 to 20 children who will sing in groups, duets and solo. Each one is at their own level in music and will perform as per their abilities."

The children will be accompanied by instrumentalists. Praising Pallavi's efforts, Suchi says, "When popular and talented people make time and effort to make a difference to our children, we are grateful and applaud them. We also have had other artistes in the past like Geeta Bhat who have come forward making time and effort to work with our children." The children have been practicing for six weeks for the Jackfruit festival.

Born and brought up in Bengaluru, Suchi says it was her dream to become a special educator. "For me just teaching was not enough. I wanted to give something back to the society. When I visited institutions and saw the work and the impact of special education on children and families, I decided it was something I wanted to do. I wanted to make it meaningful and provide children and families with quality service," says Suchi, who started Shrishti Special Academy in June 1995 in a two-bedroom house in Basaveshwara Nagar with a handful of children. "It was about what we could do to better their lives rather than focusing on numbers. We started small with whatever we had in our homes."

"And in 2000, we were donated a two-acre land on Magadi Road. We have provisions for day boarders, and a few studio apartments where students are trained independent living skills. "Our focus is to give life skill training. We believe in making the children economically contributive members of their family. If they cannot be contributory, then we train them to be contributory towards their own care, specifically those who are wheel chair bound."

Shrishti's goals, Suchi says, includes improving the quality of life of persons with disability, ensuring there are opportunities for them to participate and inclusion into the community and strengthening the eco system.

The collaboration between Shrishti and the Jackfruit Festival, Suchi says is overwhelming. "It shows how magnanimous they are and that art has no boundaries. I am happy that the children are getting an opportunity like anybody else and they are excited about this."

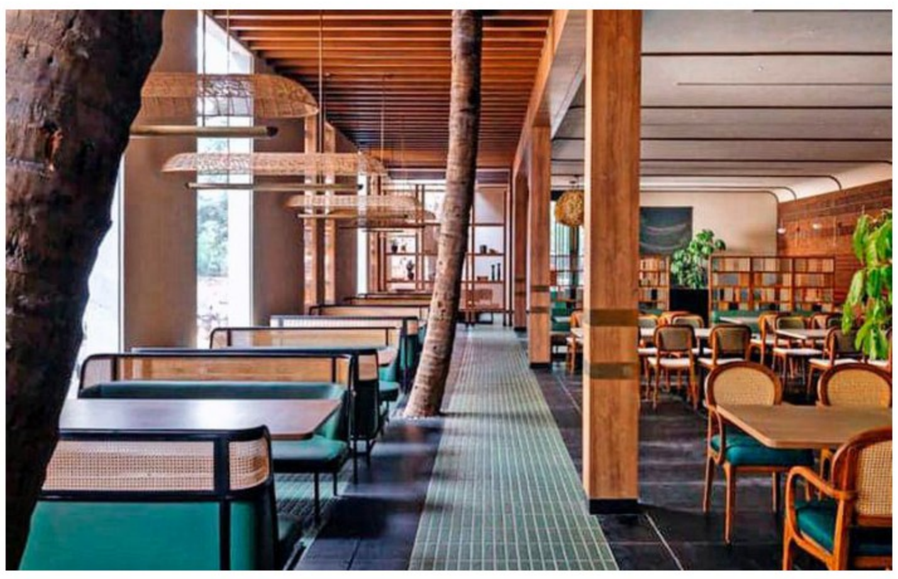
Children are children, says Suchi. "We have all sprouted from the same seed called nature. Nature does not always give the perfect quality for everything or everybody. Every seed grows different and sprouts uniquely. We need to look at the uniqueness, put ourselves in their shoes. I find children extremely perceptive to our emotions and they connect to our souls. They are forgiving and never hold grudges. We get everything easy, while they have even earn their basic privileges. Yet, they love you unconditionally."

The Jackfruit Festival is at *MLR Convention Centre and Indian Music Experience from September 20 to 22. Tickets and details on BookMyShow or call 9743734630.*

Somethings tried, somethings tested

EATING OUT

Ruth Dhanaraj



Home away from home Ishtaa in Jayanagar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bang smack in the middle of Jayanagar's bustling best is Ishtaa – a vegetarian restaurant where you can start your day trying something new or relax by indulging in the familiar comfort food of punugulu, pappu avakaya annam, rago sangati and more.

Brought to you by those behind United Teugu Kitchen and Ironhill in Bengaluru, Ishtaa too, does not stray too far from the tried and tested staples found in traditional Telugu homes. At the same time, there are a few fusion surprises on the menu too.

Ishtaa has breakfast range which even the pickiest of eaters would find hard to fault. Idlis, dosas, pesarattu, upma, uthappams and pooris – they all come with multiple options. Served only at breakfast time, the must try is their five-foot masala dosa served with eight chutneys and on a long platter.

Similarly, their Rayalseema yerra karam dosa served both with podi and masala, is only for those who can handle spice. And for those willing to subject their palate to curious flavours and textures, the chocolate dosa, ice cream dosa and Lays dosa await. Breakfast items are served only from 7am-11am and then again from 6pm-10.30pm.

We check out the starters which are an unusual mix of Telugu specials such as the chinta chiguru velluli paneer and Indo-Chinese favourites such as the honey chilli crispy potatoes. We try the paneer satay and the Ishtaa special chilli paneer. The satay was mildly hot and the nutty flavour paired well with paneer, while the Ishtaa special lived up to its name with its spice quotient.

Ishtaa
Hits: Chinta chiguru velluli paneer, nethi poornam boorelu
Misses: Malai kofta
Wallet factor: ₹1000 for two

We also tried the mushroom 65 and vegetarian Shanghai roll; both were good but did not stand out as being exceptional. Since Ishtaa does not serve alcohol and the menu is a mix of fares (North Indian and Jain dishes also make an appearance), your meal can be a mishmash of tastes, unless you pick a cuisine and stick with it, since you will not be adhering to the starters-with-drinks followed by the mains formula.

We begin our main course with garlic naan and malai kofta as suggested by the staff, but I would recommend it only if you relish the taste of creamy sweetness in the middle of your meal. There is nothing wrong with it – it just throws you off the Southern spice route your tastebuds were cruising on till then.

Next, we try the panasapottu (jackfruit) biryani which is as aromatic as it is delicious, with succulent chunks of well-seasoned jackfruit. The South Indian thali with its myriad little bowls of hearty vegetarian fare certainly did not disappoint either.

Traditional Telugu desserts that are on the menu include sheer kurma (a version of kheer with dried fruits), junnu (milk pudding in another avatar) and nethi poornam boorelu; we choose the latter simply because we have never had it before.Dumplings made of mashed channa dal, jaggery, coconut and dry fruits are dipped in batter and fried to a crispy, golden brown. Sadly, they came at the end of our meal or I'd have indulged in a few more of these delicious globes.

When you visit Ishtaa, make sure you are not too hungry because it always seems to be packed.

A chance to shine

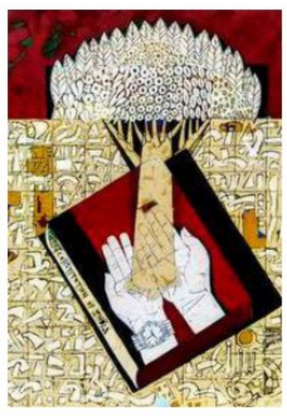
Ruth Dhanaraj

Collective Resonance is a group art show by Gallery Charvi hosted by MKF Art Gallery. This exhibition will showcase the works of six artists – Ashwini Hegde, MG Doddamani, Paul Chiranjit, Prabhu Harsoor, Shashi Bharati and Vaman Pai.

Chandar Kumar, founder of Gallery Charvi, who curated the show says over the years of his travelling on work to collect and select works of art, a few names kept popping up repeatedly.

"In April this year, I had put together a show on masters, which was quite well received. That inspired me to centre this show around a few masters as well as new and upcoming artists," says Chandar.

He adds that artists such as Doddamani, Vanman Pai and Ashwini Hegde have consistently garnered a good response in Delhi, Mumbai and other parts of the country. "I wanted to showcase these artists in Bangalore, because they aren't too many places in the city where their works are being exhibited," he says.



First impressions Some of the works at Collective Resonance. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Curated over four months, Chandar says he was quite clear as to what he wanted from the show. "Each artist is constantly working on their projects and series. Since I specifically wanted images pertaining to memories, I requested all of them to work along those lines for this show."

Chandar who has worked with plenty of artists, especially senior names, over the past 10 years with online shows, says he felt the need to promote young artists as well. Hence, Collective Resonance.

He adds that he recalled a previous nostalgia series by Doddamani and requested him for similar works for this show, which were quite different from his current work. Collective Resonance will showcase around 30 works of art by the six artists who employ varied media. Chandar says the style and colour schemes used by Sashi Bharati and Ashwini Hegde have been highly appreciated at different venues.

Charvi art gallery is located in Ulsoor and will officially open with a 50-artist, small-format show by the end of this year. Collective Resonance, their introductory show, is being hosted by MKF Musuem of Art.

Collective Resonance is on at MKF Musuem of Art till September 22.

Entry free.

Rain harvesting work reveals megalithic burial site in Kerala

A capstone found on top of an urn burial on Kundlikkad hill in Koduvayur panchayat in Palakkad district of Kerala. At right are the microliths recovered from the burial site.

Abdul Latheef Naha
PALAKKAD

A rainwater harvesting project, undertaken by the Koduvayur grama panchayat, led to an unusually large number of megalithic urn burials on top of a hill in the Kollengode range of Nenmara forest division in Kerala.

An archaeologist, who examined the urn burials found on Kundlikkad hill in Palakkad district said they could throw up a significant insight into the links between mesolithic and iron age periods in Kerala.

Kundlikkad would not have captured the attention of archaeologists had a group of labourers not dug up 60-odd pits on the hill as part of the panchayat's rainwater harvesting project.

"It is rare to find such exclusive urn burials on hilltops," said K. Rajan, archaeologist and professor of history at Government Victoria College, Palakkad. "The burials may go back to more than 2,500 years. But without excavation, we cannot date it for sure," said Dr. Rajan, examining the microliths found from the site.

Dr. Rajan has been surveying the links between mesolithic and iron age periods in the State. "In most hill sites, what we see are cairn heaps with cists and cairn circles and stone circles containing cists and dolmens. But on this hill, we could find an unusually large number of classic urn burials," he said.

Several urns were broken as the labourers went at rain pits without being aware of the archaeological significance of the region. One of the urn burial has a capstone intact. Many pot sherds were found from the region indicating the presence of such pottery as black ware, red ware, and black and red ware. "The megalith builders had deposited huge urns having thickness between 8 mm and 2 cm," said Dr. Rajan. The urn found in one of the pits had fingertip impressions on it.

16 test negative for Nipah in Kerala's Malappuram

50 of the 255 persons identified on the contact list of the victim are in the high-risk category, says Health Minister Veena George; health workers conduct meet to strengthen measures against virus

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

The serum test results of 16 people on the contact list of the Nipah victim in Malappuram district of Kerala tested negative on Tuesday, prompting the health authorities to heave a sigh of relief. However, Minister for Health Veena George said that 80 more were included on the contact list.

As many as 255 persons were identified on the contact list with 50 of them in high-risk category.

Ms. George said that 77 on the contact list were health workers. When 171 were on the primary contact list and 84 were in secondary category.

On high alert: Senior medical officers at work at the Nipah control room at Malappuram in Kerala. SAKEER HUSSAIN

As many as 30 people from a college in Bengaluru, where the 24-year-old victim was studying, were included on his contact list. However, they were all categorised as low risk, said the Minister.

District Medical Officer R. Renuka said that those on the contact list were being given all possible psychological support. "We could support 214 through our call centre today," Dr. Renuka said.

Health workers held review meetings at the Tiruvali block family health centre and Mampad grama panchayat office on Tuesday as part of strengthening the measures against Nipah. People's representatives and local body officials attended the meetings.

As many as 1,576 houses in Mampad grama panchayat were covered in a field survey. As many as 146 teams of health workers were involved in the field survey.

The Health Minister presided over a review meeting held on Tuesday.

Mpox: All international passengers at KIA have to go past thermal scanners

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

International passengers arriving at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) have to go past thermal scanners owing to the current global mpox (monkeypox) situation as a surveillance measure implemented by the Airport Health Organisation (APHO). Sources said that there are no mandatory mpox tests conducted at the airport and officials have not received any guidelines or orders from State health authorities about 21-day quarantine.

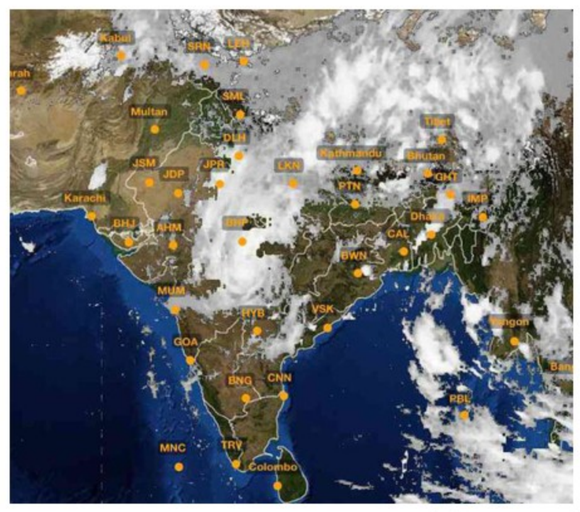
Passengers who have symptoms indicative of mpox, such as high temperature, will undergo isolation and testing as per government guidelines by health authorities.

If a passenger tests positive, they will be promptly directed to a designated hospital by the APHO for further medical care.

A Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) spokesperson said that the airport was fully prepared and compliant with all health and safety protocols issued by relevant authorities in light of the global monkeypox situation. "All international passengers arriving at the airport are being thoroughly checked for elevated temperature as part of the screening process. The health and safety of passengers and airport personnel remain our top priority, and we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of precautionary measures," BIAL spokesperson said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.9	26.6	Kozhikode	1	33.6	25.7
Ahmedabad	—	33.6	25.3	Kurnool	—	34.2	24.3
Aizawl	0.4	33.4	23.4	Lucknow	—	31.2	26.9
Allahabad	7	26.9	25.9	Madurai	—	41.0	26.6
Bengaluru	—	31.1	20.3	Mangaluru	—	30.5	23.5
Bhopal	—	30.4	23.0	Mumbai	6	31.7	22.6
Bhubaneswar	19	33.2	25.7	Mysuru	—	32.5	25.0
Chandigarh	—	35.4	24.5	New Delhi	—	34.8	24.4
Chennai	—	39.2	28.2	Patna	2	32.5	26.4
Coimbatore	—	34.2	23.2	Port Blair	34.3	29.6	24.0
Dehradun	—	33.2	22.8	Puducherry	—	38.2	27.9
Gangtok	0.3	22.5	17.7	Pune	—	31.9	22.4
Goa	16	31.8	24.4	Raipur	0.2	29.8	23.4
Guwahati	0.8	36.2	25.0	Ranchi	121	26.1	22.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	20.0	Shillong	—	23.4	16.6
Hyderabad	—	31.8	23.6	Shimla	—	27.2	18.4
Imphal	—	32.9	24.1	Srinagar	—	28.5	13.0
Jaipur	—	32.6	25.1	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.1	25.0
Kochi	0.6	30.8	26.0	Tiruchi	—	38.7	27.4
Kohima	—	24.0	17.4	Vijayawada	—	35.8	26.2
Kolkata	2.8	33.4	26.6	Visakhapatnam	—	34.1	28.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.10	..37	19	... 104	92	
Bengaluru	...6	..24	97	 48	50	
Chennai	...5	..30	12	 65	60	
Delhi	...9	..68	27	... 340	...380	
Hyderabad	.47	..48	32	 55	94	
Kolkata	...6	..31	67	 36	70	
Lucknow	...8	7	71	 59	81	
Mumbai	..—	..29	20	 75	...122	
Pune	.11	..14	35	 57	65	
Visakhapatnam	...9	..37	21	 84	...102	

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bahadurgarh, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 224 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Karwar, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

THE HINDU
OPPORTUNITIES
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

NEWS BYTES

For young startups

build3, the go-to ecosystem to build impact startups, is inviting applications from early-stage startups for the third cohort of its impact accelerator programme. The cohort will begin in the first week of November and shortlisted startups will receive financial assistance of ₹ 25 lakhs following the 10-week programme.

The pan-sectoral investment approach of build3 will focus on early-stage startups aligned with the UN-defined Sustainable Development Goals while laying emphasis on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG).

In a press release, Varun Chawla, co-founder of build3, said they were looking forward to working with over 50 founders in the third cohort.

The shortlisted candidates will upskill founders through workshops and keynotes on market research, storytelling, organisational behaviour structuring, fundraising, accounting and compliance.

A talent hunt

Lam Research Corp invites engineering students to tackle some of the most challenging systems-engineering problems in the semiconductor equipment manufacturing industry.

'Lam Research Challenge' is being hosted in partnership with T-Works and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). Students will need to display a cross-disciplinary approach including firmware, hardware, systems thinking and keen business operations acumen while arriving at solutions.

Registrations for the challenge will close on October 5, 2024, and the final round will be held during the last week of November.

The top 25 teams that emerge from the first two virtual rounds will assemble at IISc, Bengaluru for the finale. The finale will involve building a prototype to solve a systems challenge, and evaluations will be based on design, assembly and integration, hardware and firmware, cost optimisation and overall project management.

Undergraduate and postgraduate engineering students meeting qualification criteria can participate in the Challenge. In addition to exclusive internships at Lam for eligible students, winning teams will receive cash prizes, said a release.

For details, visit https://tworks.telangana.gov.in/ lam-challenge

GENERAL

ROTARY WING RESEARCH AND DESIGN CENTRE
HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED
SOAR TO GREAT HEIGHTS WITH HAL
POST BAG NO. 1783, BENGALURU – 560 017

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a Navarathna, Central Public Sector Undertaking is a leading Aeronautical Industry of South East Asia. HAL has 20 production / overhaul divisions, 10 co-located R&D Centres and 1 Facility Management Division, spread across the Country,

Rotary Wing Research and Design Centre (RWRDC) is engaged in the Design and Development of Rotary Wing Platforms. HAL, RWRDC invites applications for the following Post in the Executive Cadre:

Name of Post/ Grade	Total No. of Posts	Reservation	Division of Posting
Safety Officer / Grade-II	01	UR-01	RWRDC, Bengaluru

Detailed Advertisement is available on the HAL Website **www.hal-india.co.in**. Interested candidates may visit HAL website for further details. Eligible candidates may submit their duly filled application in the prescribed format and send it to DGM (HR), RWRDC by Registered/Speed Post only. The Last date for receipt of Application is **11-10-2024**. Corrigendum / Addendum, if any, will be hosted on the HAL Website only.

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
(ISO 9001:2015 AND ISO 14001:2015 CERTIFIED)
METROS, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION
No: CMRL/HR/CON/13/2024, dated 18-09-2024.

CMRL invites applications from qualified & experienced personnel for appointment of under mentioned posts on contract basis: -

Post Code	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Consolidated Pay (Per Month)	Min Exp. (Yrs.)	Max Age (Yrs.)
1	AGM (Elevated Construction)	01	Rs.1,60,000/-	17	47
2	AGM (Underground Construction)	02			

Note:

i. The detailed employment notification will be published in CMRL website vide URL: **https://chennaimetrorail.org**. on or before **20-09-2024.**

ii. Salary is negotiable for deserving candidates.

iii. Last date for receipt of application is **19-10-2024.**

DIPR/957/Display/2024

Additional General Manager (HR).

ENGG./PRODN./TECH.

FOUNDRY & FORGE DIVISION
HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED
POST BOX NO. 1791, VIMANAPURA POST, BANGALORE - 560017

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), is a Navratna Central PSU & premier Aeronautical Industry of South East Asia, with 20 Production Divisions & 11 Co-Located R&D Centers spread across the Country. Foundry & Forge Division which is one of the production units of HAL invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following position: -

Position	No. of posts	Educational Qualification
Manager (Lab)	1 (UR)	Full time B.E/ B.Tech in Metallurgical Engineering along with Master's Degree and full time/ part time Doctorate in Metallurgical Engineering/ Metallurgy/ Material Science

The detailed advertisement with the details of Age, Qualification, Experience, Mode of applying, Selection procedure etc. is available at HAL Website **www.hal-india.co.in.** The last date for receipt of application by post is **15.10.2024.** Corrigendum/ Addendum, if any will be hosted on HAL website only.

Chief Manager-HR,
Foundry & Forge Division, HAL, BC

To Advertise in
The Hindu Opportunities column,
Please contact,
gurunathareddy.s@thehindu.co.in or
Ph: 9845529981

GENERAL

VYDEHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES & RESEARCH CENTRE
82, EPIP Area, Whitefield, Bengaluru 560 066.
Ph.: 080- 49069000 Website: www.vims.ac.in

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

For our ongoing expansion & upgradation efforts, we are inviting applications to fill the following additional posts:

Sl.No	Department	Professor	Assistant Professor	Senior Resident
1.	Anatomy	-	2	-
2.	Physiology	-	3	-
3.	Forensic Medicine	-	2	-
4.	General Medicine	1	-	3
5.	Pediatrics	1	4	2
6.	Dermatology	2	-	1
7.	General Surgery	2	1	1
8.	OBG	1	-	-
9.	Anesthesiology	1	-	1
10.	Radio Diagnosis	1	2	4
11.	Emergency Medicine	1	-	4
12.	Neurology	1	-	-
13.	Interventional Radiology	1	1	1

Note: Remuneration will be the best in the industry

Qualification & Experience as per NMC norms.
Interested candidates may send their CV's to **careers@vimsmail.com, principalmedical@vimsmail.com**

Date: 18.09.2024 Sd/- **Chairperson**

A BG-BGE

A way out

The West Bengal government must enable the changes doctors want to see

After five attempts, the Mamata Banerjee government finally managed to hold talks with protesting junior doctors on September 16. Conceding to most of their demands, which included a call to replace the Kolkata Police Commissioner and several Health Department officials, the Chief Minister urged them to join duty for the sake of the people. Seeking justice for the rape and murder of a colleague on August 9, the doctors have been on a cease work agitation, which, with the support of civil society and other grassroots organisations, has morphed into a people's movement. Besides several 'reclaim the night' marches and other rallies, the doctors have laid siege to Swasthya Bhavan or the Health Secretariat, not calling off the protest even during two days of pelting monsoon rain. People from all across the city have flocked to the site, with water, tents, folding cots, bedding and food. Though senior doctors, nurses and attendants have pitched in with extra hours to help government hospitals, the strain is showing, and there is a clamour for junior doctors to call off the strike. People from the suburbs and districts flock to the top government hospitals in Kolkata and while out patient department footfalls have gradually increased, planned surgeries are still on hold. With about 7,000 to 10,000 junior doctors on strike, the government should have done more to end the impasse earlier.

There is an acute trust deficit between the two sides, and the whiff of a cover-up in the way the rape and murder investigation was handled in the initial stages till the CBI took over, particularly by the hospital administration and also by the government, further alienated the doctors. The former Principal of R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, Sandip Ghosh, has since been arrested. But the government has a lot of work to do if it wants to seriously address some of the other demands. It will take time, money and willpower to increase the safety and the security of doctors and end the "threat culture" pervading in government hospitals. The Supreme Court of India, which is hearing the case *suo motu*, was sceptical about the deployment of contractual security personnel in government hospitals and medical colleges, and has pulled up the administration for the slow installation of CCTV cameras. To that end, the State government has told the doctors, and also informed the top court, that it is setting aside ₹100 crore to improve hospital infrastructure, and will form a task force headed by the Chief Secretary with representatives of doctors to sort out issues. To get doctors on her side, the Chief Minister, who holds the Health and Home portfolios, has to walk the talk.

Third front

Israel fighting three militias could imperil the West Asian security situation

Sunday's missile attack on Israel by Yemen's Houthi rebels marked the second breach of Israel's highly fortified skies by Houthi weapons in two months, pointing to the expanding nature of the conflict in West Asia. In July, an Iranian-made drone launched by the Houthis from Yemen, roughly 2,000 km south of Israel, had killed one person and wounded 10 others in Tel Aviv. In retaliation, Israel launched an air strike on Hodeida, a Houthi-controlled Red Sea port in Yemen. But that has done little in deterring the Houthis. Israeli authorities have provided conflicting accounts about Sunday's attack. They first said the missile had landed in central Israel and caused a fire but added later that it had "fragmented mid-air". Another official said it was intercepted, breaking it into parts but not destroying it. Whatever the facts, it should remain a security concern for Israel, which has been fighting a disastrous war in Gaza for over 11 months, and a slow-burning war with Lebanon's Hezbollah in Israel's north, that the Houthis are penetrating its air space. Israel might launch retaliatory strikes on Yemen again, but the question is whether this would deter the Houthis.

The Houthis, who control parts of Yemen, have survived multiple air strikes by foreign powers ever since they captured Sana'a, Yemen's capital, in 2014. A Saudi-led coalition, which backed a rival government in Yemen, declared war against the Houthis in 2015, months after Salman ascended the throne and Mohammed bin Salman became the Defence Minister. But Saudi bombing failed to dislodge the Houthis, which eventually led to a fragile ceasefire between the Houthis and the Saudi-backed government in Yemen. When Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023 and Israel launched its retaliatory invasion, the Houthis "declared war" against Israel, primarily targeting tankers in the Red Sea. In response, a U.S.-led coalition declared an air strike campaign against the Houthis. But months of air strikes led by the U.S. and the U.K. have done little in diminishing Houthi fire power. Israel faces the same dilemma when it comes to tackling the Houthi problem. The Houthis, who have direct Iranian support, are entrenched in Yemen. By taking up the Palestine cause, they are both serving Iran's strategic purpose and consolidating power at home. And the drone and missile attacks on Israel are an indication of what is to come in Israel's unending wars. If Israel went to Gaza to crush Hamas 11 months ago, the Jewish state is now fighting three enemy militias at the same time – Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthis – with no military solution in the offing. This means that unless there is an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the security situation in West Asia will deteriorate on multiple fronts.

The continuing distribution of the death penalty

Shailesh Kumar

Lecturer in Criminal Law at Royal Holloway, University of London, a Commonwealth Scholar, and an Editorial Board member of the Project39A Criminal Law Blog

The life of the death sentence in India has been unending, and like a phoenix revives itself in different forms every now and then. The latest addition to this is the Aparajita Woman and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2024, adopted by the West Bengal government, the reason being the brutal rape and murder of a doctor at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital. It seeks to amend the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, in their application to the State of West Bengal. Among other things, it introduces the death penalty for the offence of rape.

While it has been unanimously passed by the Bengal Assembly, the State Governor was critical but has referred it to the President of India Droupadi Murmu for consideration. In the same month of August, there were several such cases in other States with the survivors being Dalit/Adivasi women and children. In 2022 alone, the National Crime Records Bureau recorded 31,516 rapes in India, nearly four each hour, and 248 cases of murder with rape/gang rape. Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh topped the list with 5,399, 3,690, and 3,029 recorded cases of rape, respectively.

Global data

In global figures from Amnesty International, at the end of 2023, nearly three quarters of countries had abolished the death penalty in law or practice: 112 countries had completely abolished the death penalty in law for all crimes, while 144 countries overall had abolished the death penalty in law or practice. But 55 countries still retained the death penalty in law and practice. In South Asia, while Bhutan and Nepal are the only abolitionists for all crimes, the Maldives and Sri Lanka are abolitionists in practice. India, along with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, are the retentionists. Project39A reports that in 2023 alone, India had 120 recorded death sentences. There were no recorded executions, and the number is down from 167 in 2022. Moreover, there were 561 people under the death sentence in India at the end of 2023, a constant rise since 2019, when it was 378. It is also the highest death row population in a calendar year in around two decades.

Most of such death row prisoners spend several years on death row, with some being exonerated later. They have severe physical, psychological and mental health problems and without any state compensation, which suggest grave procedural flaws and perhaps caste, class, and religious biases that pervade different institutions of the Indian criminal justice system and the people who exude power through them. Some of these prisoners commit suicide, signifying the inhuman prison conditions in which they are made to live, including prison overcrowding, as undertrials are mostly from the marginalises communities and left to fend for themselves. They continue to constitute three-fourths of the total number of incarcerated people in India.

> Creating a safer environment for women and children is a complex issue; punishment alone cannot change society

On VAWC and societal responses

Unfortunately, the use of 'decolonisation language' that gave birth to the BNS (replacing the Indian Penal Code), while enabling a few positive changes, has increased the number of offences punishable by death from 12 to 18. India has shifted to a more deterrent regime for sexual offences without any significant change in women's safety and empowerment. A glance at the nature of offences where the death sentence has been given by sessions courts in 2023, shows murder involving sexual offences at the top of the chart (64). Sexual violence against women and children (VAWC), particularly where the victim is killed, most often led to outbursts of public anger, grief, and shock, followed by the demand of capital punishment from certain sections for the rapists, who are often termed as *rakshas*, *haivaan*, *wehshi darinda*.

This framing creates an 'othering' – as if the accused is not from the same society that we inhabit – and justifies death for them as a tool for avengement, which also seems to be rooted in India's religious and societal culture that celebrates death (the killing of devils by gods and goddesses). Such calls for 'justice' to victims mostly use the honour of the family, community, and nation, ignoring the victim's autonomy and what they want, which is also reflected in judicial discourse. On the other hand, there is a normalisation and politico-legal tolerance of everyday VAWC by men, including their public flogging, sexual violence, and killing – outside by strangers without any public intervention, and at home by husbands and relatives. Worryingly, searches for victims' videos trend on Google and explicit sites.

The recommendations made by the Justice Verma Committee argued that the death sentence does not necessarily act as a deterrent against crimes such as sexual offences, including gang rapes. However, the Union Cabinet did not consider those recommendations. So, if the objective behind the death penalty is not fulfilled, the carceral politics of sexual violence must be dismantled by infusing abolitionist feminism. A key concern is also to bring human rights-based language to masses, the majority of whom do not have access to it, and whose thoughts towards the death penalty are shaped by cultural and religious narratives. There must be an abolitionist feminist movement to refuse the death sentence and even life imprisonment without parole as responses to sexual violence including rape. This movement should seek to understand and work upon the social causes and cultural conditions that lead to VAWC.

It also needs to work on the structural issues of redistribution of land and wealth for the marginalised communities, their representation in all spaces and institutions – both private and public – and a radical shift towards properly funded public education and health care. Governments and society need to work on the kind of targeted support and a range of state facilities rape survivors need in order to access education, employment, health, marital and family life. They also need to provide support to families of rape survivors, particularly minor siblings, if any, in terms of their access to education and resources, and take part in community building and a realisation of fraternity to ensure their dignity that the Indian Constitution upholds.

Complex issues but there must be a start

There need to be victim-centred procedural and institutional reforms and some sort of '*beta padhao, beti bachao* (educate the son, to protect the daughter') policy initiative to eliminate the patriarchal notion of the honour of the family, community, and nation residing in female bodies and virginity. Invisibilising and ignoring the problems mentioned above will make the abolition movement appear superficial to say the least and forced from the top. The death penalty is the safest escape route from accountability as it does not burden the state with the hard work of reforming the police, prosecution, judiciary and supporting survivors. A culture of utilising existing research for an evidence-based informed policymaking by the central and State legislatures needs to be inculcated to avoid knee-jerk populist reactions that lead to criminal injustice. Additionally, research needs to be conducted on if and how the socio-religious background of judges plays a role in them awarding the death sentence.

Indian society is again striving for social change through legal reform. It seeks the care, the safety and the support for rape survivors and their families, alongside state accountability. But we must remain attentive to how the apparatus of laws (including contract, family, labour and property laws) constructs the socio-economic status of women and children, particularly from the oppressed castes and other marginalised communities. It asymmetrically distributes wealth, knowledge and power.

Abolition of the death penalty and creating a safer environment for women and children are complex issues. They require understanding, teaching, and engaging the law, critically. There must be an admission of and public talk about caste, race, religion and gender-based violence through an intersectionality lens, including by the organisations and the people who champion these causes. Feminists argue that sexual offences are more about power than sex.

There is a need for public and judicial awareness campaigns debunking the myth of the death sentence leading to a reduction in VAWC and to bring gender equity from within the private sphere (family) to the public sphere, rather than distributing death penalty and sentence inflation. Punishment alone cannot change society.

Demographic advantage, Indian economy's sweet spot

Subhrakant Panda

Managing Director, Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys Limited (IMFA)

Much has been written about India's emergence as an economic giant – it is the world's fastest growing big economy, and is currently the fifth largest. Demographics is a major factor in propelling this rise given that the median age is around 28 years and 63% of the population is of working age. However, the labour force participation rate stood at 55.2% in 2022, according to a recent report released by the International Labour Organization (ILO), which goes on to state that falling labour intensity is likely due to growth being led by the services sector rather than manufacturing. Therefore, while we are certainly not experiencing "jobless growth", more steps are needed to harness the demographic dividend.

Continue with the reforms agenda

First and foremost, there is a need to press ahead with the ongoing reforms agenda to maintain, if not accelerate, India's growth trajectory as that by itself will create opportunities galore. There was a welcome reference to this in Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget speech to initiate and incentivise improvements in productivity and to facilitate markets and sectors to become more efficient. While there is much that the Centre has done to enhance ease of doing business, much of what needs to be done next, especially in the context of production, concerns the States (which is where the action is now). Hence, both need to walk in lockstep to broaden and deepen reforms.

The Economic Survey for 2023-24 states that technological advancements have led to a declining capital-to-output ratio and an increasing capital-to labour ratio. It was perhaps in this context that Arvind Panagariya, economist and Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission, while speaking at a recent event in the Federation Of Indian Chambers Of Commerce and Industry said capital-led economic growth is not ideal as the country has an abundance of labour.

> Gainfully employing a large, young and aspirational population is not easy but it is a challenge India can take on

The reluctance of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, the backbone of employment, to grow in size and scale as well as that of large business houses to foray into labour-intensive sectors can be attributed to the compliance burden and costs imposed by outdated labour laws.

The impasse over implementing the new labour codes approved by Parliament is sending a wrong signal to existing and prospective investors alike. It is important that one or two States with an evolved manufacturing ecosystem break the logjam by taking the lead.

The Centre's efforts to give a boost to the manufacturing sector is generally viewed from the angle that it is untenable for 45% of the workforce to be employed in the agricultural sector which accounts for only 18% of GDP. While taking steps to enhance agricultural productivity, we must not forget those who are engaged in the unorganised and non-agricultural sectors – about 19% of the workforce – which are highly fragmented and suffer from low productivity.

It is important to address their aspirations by focusing on high-growth potential sectors such as toys, apparel, tourism, and logistics which are also labour intensive. Then, as skills get upgraded, there will be an opportunity to move up the value chain and provide even better and higher paying jobs.

Skilling is a continuous process

Skilling is an important aspect of making future generations productive members of society. The Economic Survey highlighted that only 4.4% of the workforce in the age cohort of 15-29 years is formally skilled. This is a huge concern, and the dichotomy of labour surplus and skills shortage must be addressed through meaningful public-private partnerships wherein industry plays an integral role in devising the curriculum and imparting 'on the job training'. Moreover, skilling is not a one-time intervention but a lifelong process which requires flexibility in institutional mechanisms as well as learning agility.

The emphasis of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 on foundational skills as well as higher order cognitive skills and critical thinking is a good step but, in a constantly changing world, the document must be reviewed periodically and updated.

Impact of AI/ML

Finally, in an era of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), repetitive tasks with low skills are most at risk but there will always be a need for human intervention and oversight. While we must not underestimate the impact of AI/ML, neither should it be demonised. The key is to have appropriate regulations govern its use while harnessing what it has to offer. In addition to the opportunities offered by various emerging sectors, AI/ML itself is estimated by Statista to grow by nearly nine times to become a $826.73 billion worldwide market by 2030. Further, according to NASSCOM, India already has the second largest talent pool globally in this field but the current gap between demand and supply is 51% which is projected to widen. Though very niche, it is an opportunity which should not be missed.

Gainfully employing a large, young and aspirational population is not easy but it is a far better challenge to have than dealing with an ageing one with its attendant economic and societal implications. India is in a sweet spot and must employ a holistic approach to create a talent pool so as to harness its demographic dividend for the benefit of the world at large.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ahead of the U.S. election

The 2024 U.S. presidential election campaign has turned most dramatic, what with two attempts on the life of Republican candidate Donald Trump, Joe Biden, President of the United States, retiring from the race suddenly and Kamala Harris, Vice-President, being catapulted into the race. Now, Elon Musk has waded in, making some strange remarks. The presidential race, which was almost evenly poised, appears to be degenerating into vitriol. It would be in the best interests of the U.S. if the presidential contestants paid more attention to issues such as the economy and immigration which are more important for voters.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

The attempts highlight the toxic election atmosphere in the U.S. Kamala Harris must inspire voters with a vision for an inclusive America. Focusing on comprehensive immigration reform, sustainable economic growth and social justice will strengthen her position as a unifying force.

Avinashiappan Myilsami,
Coimbatore

Party's evolution

It is astounding that a party that was founded on the principle that it would fight tooth and nail against corruption has now ended up battling allegations of serious corruption. While the Aam Aadmi Party and the rest of the Opposition may see an aggressive campaign being rolled out for AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal, it remains to be seen what the strategy of the Enforcement Directorate will be.

A.P. Thiruvadi,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

A climate crisis agenda remains urgent

Zerin Osho

Director of the India Program at the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development

The next five years are critical for India's climate action efforts, given its ambitious 2030 targets. While significant advances in solar and renewable energy are under way, India's heavy reliance on coal remains a concern, with clean energy accounting for only 22% of the electricity mix. Key environmental issues that need urgent attention include reducing heat stress, improving air quality, managing waste, and enhancing energy efficiency. The growing demand for energy must be matched with comprehensive policies addressing these challenges in the near term. Encouraging businesses to view climate action as an opportunity rather than a challenge is essential, and acting swiftly on India's carbon market is a crucial step in this direction.

Mitigating pollutants

India is highly vulnerable to heat stress and may soon face heat waves beyond human survivability limits. Mitigating both CO2 emissions and short-lived super pollutants such as methane, black carbon, and hydrofluorocarbons is crucial. These super pollutants, especially methane, contribute significantly to global warming and trap much more heat than CO2 over short periods. Reducing them can prevent more near-term warming than cutting CO2 alone.

Breaking down the climate problem into manageable pieces by pollutants, sinks, or sectors can make solutions more effective. Tailor-made treaties, fair to both rich and poor countries, can be integrated into the Paris Agreement for accountability. The Montreal Protocol provides a successful blueprint. With its Kigali Amendment and move away from super potent F-gases, it is expected to avoid 0.5°C of warming by the end of this century. The next target should be methane, with the potential to avoid nearly 0.3°C of warming by the 2040s. A new treaty led by the U.S., European Union, and China could lock in corporate commitments to reduce methane emissions to near zero by 2030.

Reducing methane emissions through financially feasible gas capture and biogas projects can tackle one of the most potent greenhouse gases (GHGs) while improving urban sanitation. Reducing short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) such as black carbon and enhancing the National Clean Air Programme can significantly improve air quality and public health. However, society must recognise that air pollution is a year-round problem requiring sustained action.

Cleaning the air will require five critical changes: fostering collective responsibility, proactively investing in clean air initiatives, integrating sustainable development, leveraging data-driven interventions for precise actions, and recognising clean air as a driver of economic growth. Effective solutions require coordinated efforts, better monitoring, and regulatory reforms, highlighting the economic and health benefits of clean air for all stakeholders. For improving energy efficiency, faster decarbonisation and adoption of low global warming potential refrigerants, as per the Kigali Amendment, are crucial steps towards reducing GHG emissions.

Importance of carbon markets

Carbon markets will help incentivise reductions in GHGs by offering financial rewards for cutting emissions. To keep global temperatures from rising above 1.5-2°C, global GHG emissions need to be reduced by at least 43%. Carbon markets will play a critical role in driving these reductions. India aims to launch the 'India Carbon Market' in 2026. This could help it achieve its Nationally Determined Contributions goals and potentially become the world's largest emissions trading system by 2030. A well-developed carbon market in India could avoid $35 trillion in climate-related costs over the next 50 years.

Incentivising faster climate action by developing financial 'carrots' and a more nuanced approach to carbon trading is essential. Current single-basket metrics, which convert all climate pollutants and emission into CO2 equivalents, offer economic efficiency but obscure the diverse impacts of different pollutants. A more useful measuring stick would treat long-lived pollutants, such as CO2, separately from SLCPs, such as methane or black carbon. Such an approach would provide separate currencies for different pollutants, better accounting for their varied impacts over space and time.

All these actions and more are needed. These require critical scale and coordination. On the governance level, India needs a nodal authority with constitutional powers to ensure collaborative, pre-emptive action with timelines for all stakeholders. This is the bare minimum to ensure accountability and coordination across tiers of government.

A missed opportunity

The 2024 Lok Sabha election largely ignored the escalating climate crisis, despite its inclusion in voter demands. Party commitments to climate action were grossly inadequate. This neglect comes at a time when temperatures across the country are at an all-time high. Low voter turnout was attributed to searing heatwaves across the country. Rising unemployment, farming crises, and high living costs keep the poor focused on survival, deepening inequality. Unlike the West, India lacks a 'green party', and the sustainability discourse feels disconnected from ordinary citizens' reality.

Climate-progressive leadership will need to relentlessly work for an environmentally better India. This means pushing beyond mere tokenism and integrating climate action into the core of political agendas.

Despite its inclusion in voter demands, the climate crisis was ignored during the Lok Sabha election campaign

A matter of buns puts BJP in a pickle

The Union government has to go a long way in sensitising people about GST

STATE OF PLAY

T. Ramakrishnan
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Eight months ago, there was a controversy in Tamil Nadu over a film called *Annapoorani*. It shows the protagonist, a Brahmin woman, going against her beliefs in order to become a top chef in India. In one scene, she learns how to prepare a meat dish. Several right-wing groups claimed that the scene "hurt" the religious sentiments of the Hindu community, especially Brahmins.

Over the past week, a new controversy grabbed headlines in the State, this time over Annapoorna, a popular chain of vegetarian restaurants, known as the 'pride of Coimbatore'. This too was centred around food.

On September 11, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Coimbatore to attend a couple of events, including a meeting with representatives of industry. During the interaction, D. Srinivasan, the managing director of the Sree Annapoorna Sree Gowri Shankar Hotels in Coimbatore, raised the issue of varying GST rates on food items by providing an illustration. He said that while there is no tax levied on plain bun, adding cream to it incurs a tax of 18%. He added in humour that customers at his hotel ask only for buns, saying they will add the cream themselves.

This was not the only issue that Mr. Srinivasan raised during the meeting. However, only a portion of his speech went viral on social media. In that clip, he is heard claiming that the BJP MLA of Coimbatore (South), Vanathi Srinivasan, who was also present at the event, was a regular customer

and spoke about her food preferences.

The manner in which Mr. Srinivasan highlighted the taxation issue, as reflected on social media, put the Finance Minister and the MLA in an embarrassing position. Meanwhile, some supporters of the BJP wondered whether anyone who raised similar issues with Ministers of the ruling DMK would be allowed to go scot-free.

The next day, Ms. Sitharaman told the media in Coimbatore that a Group of Ministers was examining the demands of the hotel industry regarding the GST on various food items and would submit its recommendations. She also responded to the complaint of several States that they were not getting their due of GST collections. She said that the collections were shared equally between the Union and State governments. Apart from this, the Centre gives 41% of the divisible pool of taxes to the States, she said.

The matter could have been laid to rest with this. However, the BJP's image took a hit when another video clip emerged in which Mr. Srinivasan was seen apologising to Ms. Sitharaman at a private meeting. Ms. Vanathi Srinivasan was also present at this interaction. When this apology too went viral, the Opposition slammed the BJP, especially the Finance Minister, for displaying "arrogance of power" and "intimidating those who ask questions." Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi; DMK deputy general secretary of the Lok Sabha, Kanimozhi Karunanidhi; the organisation secretary of the AIADMK, D. Jayakumar; and the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee chief, K. Selvaperunthagai criticised the BJP. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, who returned to Chennai on Saturday after a three week-long visit to the U.S. to seek industrial investments, said that the way in which Ms. Sitharaman handled the episode was "shameful".

The BJP legislator asserted that her party had no role in Mr. Srinivasan tendering the apology. She rebutted Mr. Stalin's criticism saying Ms. Sitharaman had addressed the problems of industry without any assistance from the State govenrment. The BJP legislator added that she could have disputed Mr. Srinivasan's account about herself publicly, but she refrained from doing so to maintain decorum.

Then, in a surprise move, the BJP State president, K. Annamalai, who is in the U.K. on sabbatical, wrote on X, expressing his "sincere apology" for what his colleagues did, namely, sharing in public a private conversation between Ms. Sitharaman and Mr. Srinivasan. On September 14, the restaurant chain issued a statement that its top executive "under his own volition" met Ms. Sitharaman to clear any misgivings.

The episode drives home the point that the Union government has a long way to go in sensitising people about the system concerning GST and that the Centre, though a key player in the decision-making process is not the sole authority to decide on taxation.

Post-1991, southern States emerged as leaders: EAC-PM

Punjab and West Bengal have recorded sharp declines in per capita income after a head start

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Post-liberalisation in 1991, the per capita income of the southern States surged significantly and they emerged as "leading performers", shows an analysis released by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). In contrast, the economic performances of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar regressed and worsened after bifurcation.

Among the western States, Maharashtra and Gujarat consistently performed well. Gujarat exhibited rapid growth from the beginning of the millennium. Among the northern States, Delhi and Haryana performed exceptionally well, though the latter's economic might is mostly drawn from Gurugram and its adjoining areas.

Punjab had a head start due to the Green Revolution in the 1960s and '70s, but its performance has consistently declined thereafter. The EAC-PM's paper questions whether this was a case of excessive focus on agriculture hindering a transition to industrialisation.

The eastern States continue to "remain a concern", the paper notes. West Bengal, especially, which had the third best per capita income in the 1960s, regressed rapidly to become the 14th best among the major States. The report does not consider Goa, Himachal Pradesh, north-eastern States other than Assam, and Union Territories other than Delhi as major States.

Rajasthan and Odisha, which had recorded declines until liberalisation, saw a turnaround thereafter, though the degree of rise in income levels was minimal. The per capita income levels in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh have remained consistently low.

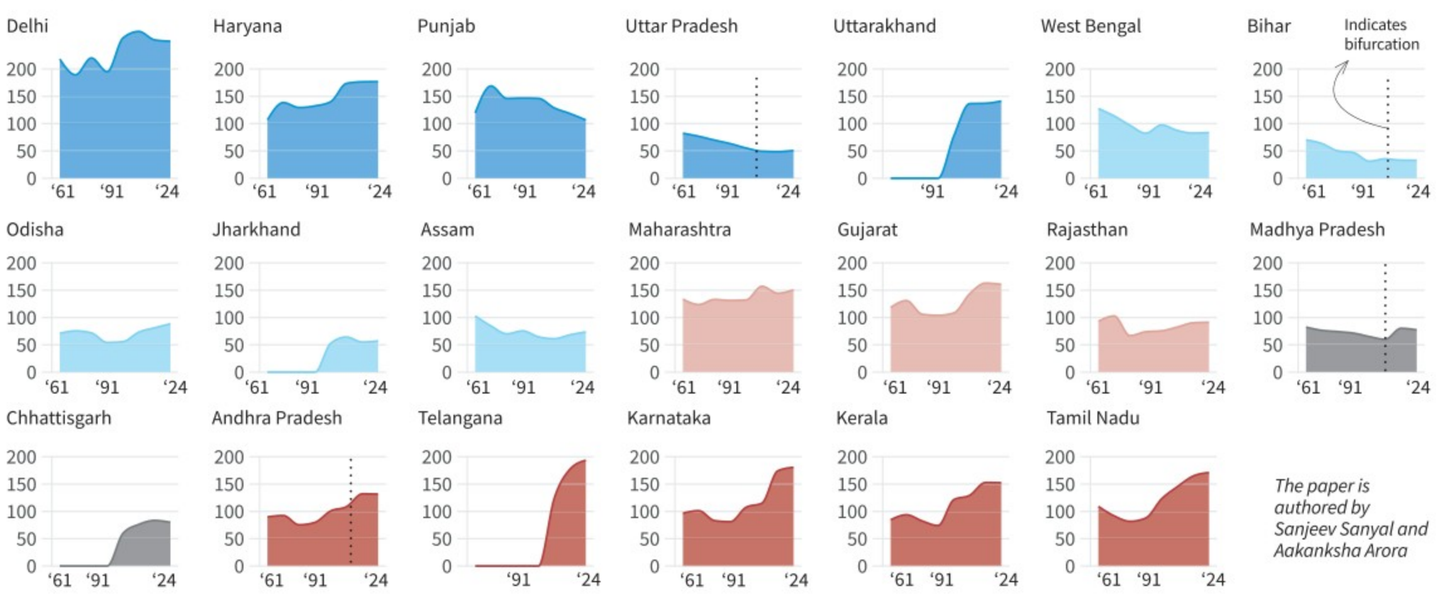
Chart 1 shows the relative per capita income levels.

Chart 2 shows the State's share in national GDP.

Rise and fall of economic fortunes

The charts are based on data sourced from the Economic Advisory Council's paper, "Relative Economic Performance of Indian States: 1960-61 to 2023-24"

Chart 1: The chart shows the relative per capita income levels. It is a percentage of per capita Net State Domestic Product of a State to the all-India per capita Net National Product or per capita Net National Income



The paper is authored by Sanjeev Sanyal and Aakanksha Arora

Chart 2: The chart shows the State's share in national GDP. It is defined as the ratio of a State's Gross State Domestic Product to the sum of GSDP of all States. The darker the blue, higher the share in national GDP

	1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2010-11	2020-21	2023-24
Delhi	1.4	1.5	2.3	2.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6
Haryana	1.9	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.8	3.6	3.6
Punjab	3.2	4.4	4.3	4.3	3.9	3.3	2.7	2.4
Uttar Pradesh	14.4	13	13.2	12.6	10.2	8.7	8.2	8.4
Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	0.7	1.2	1.1	1.1
West Bengal	10.5	9.7	8.8	7.9	8.2	6.7	5.7	5.6
Bihar	7.8	6.9	6.3	6	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8
Odisha	2.9	3.2	3.2	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.7	2.8
Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.5
Assam	2.6	2.4	2.1	2.4	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.9
Maharashtra	12.5	11.9	14.2	14.6	14	15.2	13	13.3
Gujarat	5.8	6.7	6.3	6.4	6.4	7.5	8	8.1
Rajasthan	4.4	5.1	3.9	4.7	4.6	4.9	5.1	5
Madhya Pradesh	6.3	6.1	6.6	6.9	4.3	3.8	4.7	4.5
Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.7
Andhra Pradesh	7.7	7.7	7	7.6	8.2	4.6	4.9	4.7
Telangana	-	-	-	-	-	3.8	4.7	4.9
Karnataka	5.4	5.7	5.3	5.3	6.2	5.9	8.1	8.2
Kerala	3.4	3.8	3.6	3.2	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.8
Tamil Nadu	8.7	7.3	6.9	7.1	8.3	8.4	8.9	8.9

In chart 2, figures for Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh are that of undivided States post bifurcation and of divided States post-bifurcation

Among smaller States, Goa led the list, with its relative per capita income doubling compared to the 70s. Chandigarh also recorded a high income level, though it had declined marginally recently

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 18, 1974

Southern States oppose curbs on road transport

Trivandrum, Sept. 17: The conference of Transport Ministers of Southern States here to-day decided to request the Union Government to review its recent directive that permits should not be issued for vehicles to operate on routes exceeding a distance of 500 km.

The conference said that this directive caused considerable difficulty to the Southern States where the railway lines were comparitively limited and road transport was the mainstay to transport essential articles. It decided that this position should be brought to the notice of the Centre and if necessary require it to convene a conference of the Ministers of the Southern States.

The one-day conference was attended by the Ministers, Messrs. Ramachandran (Tamil Nadu), K.H. Raghunath (Karnataka), and M.N. Govindan Nair (Kerala). Officials from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh attended the conference. Pondicherry was not represented.

The Kerala Chief Minister, Mr. A. Achutha Menon, inaugurated the conference. Mr. Ramachandran (Tamil Nadu) presided. Mr. M.N. Govindan Nair (Kerala) welcomed the gathering.

The feasibility of setting up a road transport "training, research and development institute" in South India, similar to the one functioning at Poona, was considered by the conference. Since Tamil Nadu was already examining a proposal in this regard, the conference requested that State to pursue it further.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 18, 1924

Bombay factories

Bombay, Sept. 17: The annual report of the working of the Factories Act in Bombay Presidency shows an increase in the number of factories by 141 in 1923, the total number now being 1,203, the increase being mainly due to operations of the amended Act which now brings under control factories employing between 20 and 50 persons in addition to those employing over 50 operatives. The total number of operatives fell from 3,60,518 tp 3,56,418 of whom nearly seventy thousand were women and the number of children have fallen from 15,800 to 11,400, a reduction of 28 per cent in two years.

From Page One

Kejriwal exits, Atishi to become Delhi CM

Ms. Atishi alleged that the BJP put false cases on Mr. Kejriwal and kept him inside jail for six months and finally, the Supreme Court gave him bail and called the Central government's investigative agencies a caged parrot.

"People of Delhi, our MLAs, and I being the Chief Minister of Delhi for a few months till the election, will work with only one intention – to make Mr. Kejriwal Chief Minister again. Until I handle this big responsibility, I will have one intention, I know that the BJP will try to conspire against Delhiites through the L-G. They will try to stop free electricity, stop free medicines, shut *mohalla* clinics, and ruin the government schools. As long as I have this responsibility for a few months, I will make sure to protect the people of Delhi and under the guidance of Arvind Kejriwal *ji*, run the Delhi government," Ms. Atishi said. The BJP was quick to launch an attack on Ms. Atishi calling her a dummy Chief Minister and alleged that the AAP was now trying to give the party a makeover, but no matter how hard they tried, they wouldn't be able to hide the "black spots of corruption".

SC slams Bengal plan to hire private guards

"What safety would women doctors have," Chief Justice Chandrachud asked the State sharply about the scheme (which translates as Friend in the Night) notified on September 13.

The court compelled the State to agree to withdraw a policy, issued August 19, to restrict women doctors to 12-hour shifts and take no night duty at hospitals.

"Women do not want concessions from you. They want equal opportunities to work in a safe environment. Why do you prevent from working in the nights?" the Chief Justice asked senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the State of West Bengal.

The court said the hours of duty should be reasonable for doctors across the spectrum, regardless of their gender. It said the State should not vitiate the constitutional guarantee of gender equality.

"You [State] cannot tell a woman who is a part of our workforce that she cannot work at night... Pilots, doctors, Armed Forces personnel work nights," the Chief Justice said. Mr. Sibal agreed to delete the clauses with immediate effect.

SC freezes illegal 'bulldozer' action

"There needs some oversight. After our orders, there have been statements that bulldozers will continue... That it depends on [in] whose hands the steering is..." Justice Gavai said.

The court said there would be no bulldozer demolitions without the leave of the Supreme Court till October 1, the next date of hearing. The court said the stay order would, however, not apply to unauthorised structures on public roads, streets, footpaths, or abutting railway lines, or on public places such as water bodies.

Justice Viswanathan asked Mr. Mehta to assist the court on ways to stop illegal, retributory or communal demolitions by State or municipal authorities. The judge said the court could even arraign the Election Commission of India in the case.

Justice Gavai said the court was not preventing the demolition of unauthorised structures regardless of the building owner's faith. "If you want to demolish a gurdwara, temple or a masjid located on a public road, do it... If there are houses abutting railway lines, yes," Justice Gavai observed.

Centre took key decisions in first 100 days, says PM

In Bhubaneswar, PM releases first instalment of assistance to 10 lakh beneficiaries under PM Awas Yojana-Gramin; highlights new pension scheme for Union govt. employees among the steps taken

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government had taken important steps for the poor, farmers, youth, and women during the first 100 days of its third term.

"Today marks 100 days of the NDA government's current term. In this time, numerous key decisions have been made to benefit the poor, farmers, youth, and to empower women. Among these, the government has committed to build three crore new concrete houses and announced a ₹2 lakh crore package aimed at uplifting the youth," Mr. Modi said addressing beneficiaries of Subhadra, a newly launched scheme for women in Odisha, at Bhubaneswar.

Narendra Modi presents a cheque to a beneficiary during the inauguration of Subhadra Yojana in Bhubaneswar. BISWARANJAN ROUT

"The government will fund the first month's salary of young professionals when they join private companies. We have also approved an additional 75,000 seats in medical colleges. Recently, we gave the green light to connect 25,000 villages with concrete roads. The budget for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been doubled, and a special programme for the development of 60,000 tribal villages has been launched," he added.

Giving details of the other initiatives introduced by the government, Mr. Modi said: "A remarkable pension scheme for government employees has been introduced. Income tax rates have been reduced for the middle-income group and small entrepreneurs. In just 100 days, 11 lakh women have become new *Lakhpati didis*."

"We have taken a major decision to support paddy and onion farmers. Import duties on edible oil have been increased to encourage domestic purchases from Indian farmers. At the same time, the export duty on basmati rice has been lowered to boost exports and benefit paddy growers," he said, adding that the MSP for kharif crops has been increased, providing financial relief to crores of farmers to the tune of ₹2 lakh crore.

The PM released the first instalment of assistance to nearly 10 lakh beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin for around 14 States. He took part in *grih pravesh* (housewarming) celebrations of 26 lakh beneficiaries of PMAY (Gramin and Urban) from across the country and handed over house keys to some PMAY (Gramin and Urban) beneficiaries. Further, he launched Awaas+ 2024 mobile app for survey of additional households for PMAY-G, and the operational guidelines of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0.

Many agencies working on scheme to prevent railway sabotage: Home Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah addresses the media on Tuesday, marking the NDA government's first 100 days of its third term. R.V. MOORTHY

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday that several agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the Railway Police and the Home Ministry are preparing a scheme for the protection of the railway network to ensure that there is no sabotage.

He also said the Census exercise would begin soon. When asked if caste would be enumerated with the next Census, Mr. Shah said, "Everything will be in the public domain."

He said the Waqf (Amendment) Bill is committed to the management and preservation of Waqf properties and would be passed in Parliament in the coming days.

Mr. Shah stated that any conspiracy to cause railway accidents would not last long and the government would soon unveil an initiative for the protection of railway network of 1.1 lakh km across the country. The Home Minister's remarks come in the wake of a series of incidents indicating sabotage as obstructions were placed on railway tracks.

Addressing a press conference to mark 100 days of the third tenure of the BJP-led NDA government, Mr. Shah said he had discussed the issue of railway safety with Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw over the last two days.

"As far as accidents are concerned, we will investigate the root cause of this. Whatever the reason, the government is committed to addressing the issue. If this is a conspiracy, it will not last long. If there are gaps, they will be plugged," Mr. Shah said.

The Congress party had claimed that there were 38 railway accidents in the first 100 days of the third tenure of the Modi government and accused Mr. Vaishnaw of dismissing these as "minor incidents".

Steps taken to improve self-reliance, says Rajnath

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said that, in the first 100 days of its third term under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the NDA government had started a series of infrastructure development and welfare programmes.

Mr. Singh told reporters that the Union government was taking all possible steps to achieve the objective of making India a developed nation. He said in these three months, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) had decided to procure items costing over ₹1.5 lakh crore.

In the effort to make India self-reliant in the defence sector, he said 346 more items had been included in the list of strategically important products to be manufactured in India and by Indians.

The public sector undertakings (PSUs) were also being encouraged to develop and manufacture defence related products.

Road map in place for Manipur, both sides should talk, says Shah

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday that resolving the situation in Manipur requires dialogue between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities, adding that a road map for Manipur in the coming days is already prepared.

He emphasised that the incidents in Manipur cannot be attributed as "terrorism" as it is an "ethnic violence".

While addressing a press conference on the completion of 100 days of the NDA front, he said the government is in discussions with both the Kuki and Meitei groups.

Responding to a question by *The Hindu* on the government's strategy regarding Manipur, which has seen violence erupt in waves since his visit last year, Mr. Shah said: "For three days, violent incidents occurred in the State. Except these, there was no major incident in the past three months. There is peace in Manipur for the past three days. I am hopeful that we will be able to take control of the entire situation effectively. We are holding discussions with both the communities. Unless there is a dialogue between the two communities, no solution can be arrived at. We are in discussions with both the Meitei and the Kuki groups. In the coming days, we have prepared a roadmap to take all sort of initiatives in Manipur."

Replying to a question on rumours about resignation of Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Mr. Shah said: "Who told you that he has been asked to resign?"

In a fresh spell of violence, at least 11 people have been killed in the State. Violent protests were witnessed in the valley areas and stones were thrown at the Governor's House. Curfew was imposed in valley districts.

He said in the first 100 days of the government, fencing has started along the Myanmar border as it (unfenced border) is at the core of the current crisis. He added that 30 km fencing has been completed and budget has been approved to fence the entire border.

"To stop infiltration, we have scrapped the Free Movement Regime with Myanmar Many security lapses or loopholes along the border have been plugged," he said.

Mr. Shah, responding to another question on the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Manipur, said: "You will get to know whenever it happens."

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh questioned that if the situation is normal then why has the Prime Minister not visited the State even once.

Schools reopen in Imphal Valley

GUWAHATI
Schools, colleges and higher education institutions in the five districts of Manipur's Imphal Valley reopened on Tuesday after 10 days of violence and protests that led to the clamping of curfew in three of these districts. The Internet ban in these districts was lifted on Monday.

Cong. angry with me for attending puja: PM

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday lashed out at the Congress for creating a controversy around his participation in a Ganesh *utsav* alongside Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud.

"At a time when we are bidding farewell to Lord Ganesh, you have seen Congress and its ecosystem expressing anger over the past few days because I attended a Ganesh puja (without mentioning the event with CJI). In Karnataka, under the Congress government, they committed an even greater offence – they placed an idol of Lord Ganesh behind bars. The entire country is disturbed by these images," the PM said, during the launch of the 'Subhadra' scheme.

"The hate-filled thinking and mindset to infuse poison in society will prove dangerous for our country. We should not let these hate groups move ahead. We have to achieve many goals by staying together," he said.

Mamata transfers officials; doctors yet to rejoin work

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday appointed a new Commissioner of Police of Kolkata and transferred senior Health Department officials.

However, the protesting doctors, whom the Chief Minister met on Monday night, have not announced any decision to resume work.

Senior IPS officer Manoj Kumar Verma was appointed the new Commissioner of Kolkata Police, replacing Vineet Kumar Goyal, who has been facing criticism over the handling of the rape and murder of a doctor.

Manoj Kumar Verma has taken charge as the Kolkata Police Commissioner.

Mr. Verma, who was West Bengal Police Additional Director General (Law and Order), has significant experience in handling conflict including Left-wing extremism and political violence. Jawed Shamim has been appointed Additional Director General (Law and Order), West Bengal Police.

The State removed Kaustav Nayak and Debasish Halder from the positions of Director of Medical Education (DME) and the Director of Health Services (DHS), respectively, a Health Department order said.

During the day, former Principal of R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital Sandip Kumar Ghosh and former officer in-charge of Tala police station Abhijit Mondal were produced before a city court. The CBI had arrested them for their alleged involvement in tampering with evidence.

The CBI counsel informed the court that both the accused were constantly in touch when the body of the victim was found on August 9. Counsel of the accused said they were not directly involved in rape and murder.

Ready to work, but haunted by fear: doctors to SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Members of the West Bengal Junior Doctors Front told the Supreme Court on Tuesday that they would "in principle" want to rejoin work after over a month of protests against the brutal rape and murder of their young colleague at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata following assurances from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at a meeting held on Monday, but they were still haunted by a "fear psychosis".

Appearing before a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, senior advocate Indira Jaising, for the junior doctors, confided in the courtroom that those responsible behind the "cover-up" about the gruesome crime on August 9 were still "roaming" in the hospital and would subject them to victimisation on rejoining work.

Ms. Jaising said a "settlement" had been reached after the fifth round of talks held with Ms. Banerjee. She said the Front had sent 40 representatives for the meeting regardless of the fact that the State had not met any of the pre-conditions the top court had set on September 9 for the doctors to join work the next day at 5 p.m. The senior advocate said the Front would hold a general body meeting "today or tomorrow" to reach a "broad consensus". There might be a "gap of time" before taking a final call.

"...We would be victimised. We need some kind of assurance from the court. There is a fear psychosis. We want to go back to work," Ms. Jaising said.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal and advocate Astha Sharma, for West Bengal, said the Chief Minister herself had given the assurance that no punitive action would be taken against the protesting doctors who return to work.

The Chief Justice reached out to allay the apprehensions of the doctors against any punitive action occasioned by their abstention from work.

Probe to reveal 'absolute truth': CJI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) line of probe into the R.G. Kar rape and murder case is intended to reveal the "absolute truth", and it would be unwise to either hurry the probe or dislocate it by revealing the line of investigation.

"They (CBI) are looking at various issues, including the scene of crime tampering, complicity of other persons, tampering of evidence... the SHO has been arrested. The CBI has specifically responded to issues raised by us," Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud told the lawyers in the courtroom after perusing the CBI status report.

APPEAL

Sivarakshan aged 6 years, suffering from B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. He needs Chemotheraphy and Radiation Therapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital and Research Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs. 8,00,000/-. His family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Kindly help him to undergo the treatment and lead a healthy life. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C. No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13. N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027. E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com**.
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

Over 35,000 Kashmiri Pandits to cast their votes

Press Trust of India
JAMMU

More than 35,000 displaced Kashmiri Pandits from across the country are eligible to vote at 24 polling stations in the first phase of the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

The displaced Kashmiri Pandits will exercise their right of franchise in 16 constituencies of south Kashmir's Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam.

"As many as 35,500 Kashmiri migrant voters are eligible to cast their votes at 24 special polling stations set up in Jammu, Udhampur and Delhi for the first phase of elections," Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Arvind Karwani said.

Mr. Karwani, who is supervising the election process, said 34,852 such voters are registered in Jammu. Similarly, 648 such Kashmiri migrant voters are registered in Udhampur and Delhi to cast their votes.

"Kashmiri migrant voters opting to vote in person via electronic voting machines will have access to 24 polling stations, including 19 in Jammu, one in Udhampur, and four in Delhi," he said.

After a decade-long wait, J&K votes today in Assembly election

3,276 polling stations set up for 23.27 lakh voters in 24 constituencies in seven districts for first phase; 219 candidates are in the fray; security tightened as polling will be held in militancy-affected Doda and Kishtwar in the Chenab Valley

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Foot soldiers: Polling officers carry polling material, including EVMs, to a bus that will take them to distant polling stations in Pulwama district of south Kashmir on Tuesday. IMRAN NISSAR

Multi-tier security arrangements are in place in Jammu & Kashmir for the first phase of the much-awaited Assembly election in 24 constituencies in seven districts of the Kashmir and Jammu divisions on Wednesday.

When the previous election was held 10 years ago, J&K was a State, but in August 2019, the Union government downgraded it to a Union Territory and ended its special constitutional status under Article 370.

An official said hundreds of additional troops had been mobilised for security cover to 3,276 polling stations. Voting will be held from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Doda and Kishtwar in the Chenab Valley, which witnessed heightened militancy this year and frequent gun battles, are among the districts going to the polls in this phase. Officials said the Army and the J&K Police had stepped up area domination in the upper reaches of the two districts, which have six seats, early this month.

The Chenab Valley is among the regions recast by the J&K Delimitation Commission, carving out two additional Assembly constituencies. The BJP aims to win a majority of seats here as the voter demography after delimitation favours one community. The new constituencies of Doda West and Padder-Nagseni have a majority of Hindus. Inderwal is the only Muslim-majority constituency in Kishtwar district after two Hindu belts of Mulchiter and Kuntawara of Inderwal were adjusted in Kishtwar, a Hindu-majority constituency now.

A general alert has been sounded in the Union Territory, especially the cities of Jammu and Srinagar. Additional checkpoints have been set up. Cameras and drones assist security forces in volatile pockets.

An official said 219 candidates are in the fray in the first phase which has over 23.27 lakh voters – 11.76 lakh men and 11.51 lakh women. "Youth voters are a significant demographic, with 5.66 lakh eligible voters between the ages of 18 and 29, including 1,23,960 lakh voters aged 18 or 19. Among these first-timers, 10,261 are men and 9,329 women," an official said. The polling stations – 302 urban and 2,974 rural – have webcasting facilities, they added.

INBRIEF

1,031 candidates remain in the fray for Haryana election

A total of 1,031 candidates will contest the Haryana Assembly election to be held on October 5. While 1,559 candidates had filed nominations, 1,221 were found valid and 338 rejected on scrutiny. Candidates were allowed to file their nominations between September 5 and 12. The scrutiny of the nominations took place on September 13.Of the 1,221 nominations cleared, 190 were withdrawn, the Election Commission (EC) said. The EC had postponed the date of polling in Haryana from October 1 to 5, keeping in mind a festival of the Bishnoi community in remembrance of Guru Jambheshwar.

BJP chief starts blood donation camp in Delhi on PM's birthday

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Tuesday started a blood donation camp as part of "Seva Diwas" at the party headquarters on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday. "Till 2nd October @BJP4India, the country will celebrate 'Seva Pakhwada'. During this time, various programmes like blood donation, tree plantation, cleanliness, etc. will be conducted by our crores of workers," he said on X. Stating that all the major government departments would present their achievements before the country in the coming week, he said: "I express my gratitude to the Honorable PM for all these achievements and on behalf of millions of BJP workers, I extend my heartfelt birthday wishes to him."

With an exodus of senior leaders, Azad's fledgling party huffs and puffs in campaign

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Reeling under crisis: Ghulam Nabi Azad launched the Democratic Progressive Azad Party after he quit the Congress in 2022. FILE PHOTO

The Ghulam Nabi Azad-led Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), which was launched with a lot of fanfare by the former Congress leader in 2022 to create an alternative in the Union Territory, is struggling to put up a fight in the Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir.

The DPAP received a major setback as around 20 prominent faces quit the party, especially after the successful campaign by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Kashmir during his Bharat Jodo Yatra in 2023. A total of 64 senior Congress leaders had joined Mr. Azad's DPAP in 2022, and many saw it as a formidable political force at the time. However, the DPAP's prospects were dented when regional parties accused Mr. Azad's party of being backed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which resulted in all three DPAP candidates losing their deposit in the Lok Sabha election.

The party received a fresh jolt when popular leaders left it in the past three months, including former legislators Zafar Iqbal Khan Manhas, Peerzada Muhammad Sayeed, Peer Shahbaz, Taj Mohiuddin and G.M. Saroori. Mr. Manhas and Mr. Saroori had fought the Lok Sabha election on DPAP ticket. Both are contesting as Independent candidates now.

"We have fielded 22 candidates in J&K," DPAP spokesperson Salman Nizami told *The Hindu*. The only prominent faces contesting on DPAP ticket are Mohammad Amin Bhat from the Devsar constituency in the Kashmir Valley, and Majid Wani from the Doda East seat in the Jammu region.

The DPAP has fielded only around 10 candidates in the Kashmir Valley, which has 47 Assembly seats.

Mr. Azad's failing health had resulted in around five candidates withdrawing their nominations. Lately, however, Mr. Azad has been able to join the campaign trail and address rallies.

Joined by his son and daughter during his campaigns, Mr. Azad targeted the Abdullah family of the National Conference (NC) and the Mufti family of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in his speeches. "For years, empty slogans resulted in loss of countless lives, stalling the region's development," Mr. Azad said in Doda.

Calling for "real progress and not hollow rhetoric", he said the people of J&K were "for free ration, reliable electricity, employment opportunities, quality education, and better healthcare".

Article 370 can be restored as it was not abrogated by an act of God, says Omar

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Omar Abdullah

Retorting to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's position on restoration of Article 370 granting special constitutional status to Jammu & Kashmir, National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said it was revoked on August 5, 2019 not by an act of God and hence can be restored.

"It was not the decision of God but the people sitting in Parliament. The same Parliament can restore it. If a five-judge Bench had ruled on the abrogation, a seven-judge Bench can favour Article 370's restoration in the future," Mr. Abdullah said.

The NC's manifesto mentions the restoration of Article 370 as its top agenda. Speaking at an election rally in Kishtwar on Monday, the Union Home Minister had said there was "no place for Article 370 in the Indian constitution". "This Article has become an old chapter of India's history. No power can restore it now," Mr. Shah said.

Mr. Abdullah also targeted Mr. Shah for "failure to contain militancy in the Jammu region".

"Terrorism is on the rise in Jammu. The Home Minister should focus on it. The Centre has been directly ruling J&K for the past 10 years. Who is responsible for the situation in Jammu?" he said.

He exuded confidence that the people would give a clear mandate to the NC-Congress alliance.

(With PTI inputs)

Shah accuses Cong. of playing politics over Agnipath scheme

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

In his first election rally in Haryana, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday accused the Congress of playing politics over the Agnipath scheme, and said not a single Agniveer returning from the Army after four years would be without a job in the State.

His remarks came at a Jan Aashirwad Rally in Bhiwani's Loharu.

Later at a rally in Faridabad, he said slogans were raised at the Congress rallies in Palwal and Hathin hailing Pakistan, and accused the party of doing "politics of appeasement".

With the Bhiwani-Mahendragarh region sending a large number of soldiers to the Army, Mr. Shah dwelt upon the twin issues of "One Rank, One Pension" and the Agnipath Scheme at the Bhiwani rally, accusing the Congress of doing little for the welfare of soldiers. Saying that former Congress Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Manmohan Singh denied OROP to the soldiers for four decades, Mr. Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the long-pending demand a year after he took charge.

Promises jobs

Accusing the Congress, especially the Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, of playing politics on the new Agnipath scheme, Mr. Shah said when he spoke to Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini about the Opposition "spreading rumours" on the scheme, Mr. Saini said his government would give jobs to all Agniveers.

"I am saying this today, not a single Agniveer returning from the Army will be jobless. This is the responsibility of the BJP," he said.

Engineer Rashid hits back after Lone's jibe

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) chief and MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid and J&K Peoples Conference (JKPC) chief Sajad Lone exchanged barbs over the former's release on bail.

Addressing an election rally in Kupwara district, hometown of both Mr. Lone and Mr. Rashid, the MP on Tuesday countered the remarks made by the JKPC chief about his bail and threatened to file a case.

"I have spent over five and a half years in jail. I have suffered for speaking the truth. Those who have lived comfortably and supported the RSS are now accusing me of being an agent of the Centre," Mr. Rashid said.

Mr. Lone on Monday said Mr. Rashid "was not in jail for the past two months".

Garnering support of Dalit community proves a challenge for BJP in Haryana

NEWS ANALYSIS

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Outreach drive: At a rally in Kurukshetra, Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought to dispel fears among Dalits over reservation. ANI

As the BJP makes extensive efforts to retain power in Haryana, its outreach to Dalits has been growing to win the crucial votes of the community.

By the 2011 Census figures, the Scheduled Castes account for over 20% of the State's population, and with the BJP losing its electoral sheen in the reserved Assembly constituencies over the years, gaining their support would not be easy.

The BJP won nine of the 17 Assembly seats reserved for the SCs in 2014, when it came to power in the State. However, the number dropped to five in the 2019 Assembly election. The Congress tally of these seats went up from four in 2014 to seven in 2019.

In the Lok Sabha election, the Congress improved its vote share in these constituencies. A post-poll analysis by CSDS-Lokniti showed that a majority of Dalits in Haryana shifted from the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance to the INDIA bloc.

Modi's speech

Stepping up the party's campaign in the State last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought to dispel fears of the Dalit community about the continuation of reservation.

At a rally in Kurukshetra, he said the BJP had no intention to end reservation. "The Congress has always opposed reservation... but Congress should listen carefully that as long as Modi is here, I will not allow even an iota of the reservation given by Ambedkar to be looted or taken away... this is Modi's guarantee," he said.

After the rally, BJP leaders have been consistently focusing on the Dalit community by raising their issues prominently in public rallies and events.

However, political observers have doubts about their success. Ronki Ram, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chair Professor of Political Science at Panjab University, says that during the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the narrative that the BJP could end reservation worked against the party. "The Lok Sabha election was held only a few months ago, and the narrative that the BJP could end reservation during the poll campaign had gone deeply into the minds of Scheduled Castes, which is difficult to undo at this stage. The BJP is making a desperate attempt but it will be difficult to regain the lost trust," he said.

The BJP has been at the receiving end of farmers' anger since the year-long farmers' protest against the now-repealed farm laws. The party faced farmers' wrath during the Lok Sabha campaign. The anger is still palpable.

Take action against violent remarks: Kharge to PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and raised the "extremely objectionable" and "violent" statements made by members of the ruling alliance, including a Union Minister, against Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Wishing Mr. Modi on his birthday, the Congress chief urged him to "discipline" the leaders who made provocative speeches against Mr. Gandhi.

He said legal action should be taken against them so that "Indian politics can be prevented from degenerating and nothing untoward happens".

"I trust that you will take the required action to immediately stop these leaders from making violent statements," he added.

INBRIEF

Jio users face network outage across regions for six hours

Reliance Jio users across various regions, including Mumbai, faced connectivity issues for atleast six hours on Tuesday. Users encountered difficulties accessing services on their cell phones and Wi-Fi routers before the network was restored. At least 10,000 Jio users complained of a network outage at around 12 p.m., with 68% reporting 'no signal', 37% 'mobile-internet', and 14% mentioning problems with JioFiber, as per *Downdetector*.

IndiGo plane hits runway on take-off, continues flight

In a major safety breach, a Bengaluru-bound IndiGo aircraft scraped the runway while taking off from Delhi, yet continued to fly to its destination instead of conducting an emergency landing. The DGCA has off-rostered the pilots as well as the cabin crew and is investigating the tail strike that occurred on September 9, involving an IndiGo flight that took off from Delhi at 3.50 p.m. and arrived in Bengaluru at 6.30 p.m.

New tech to address stray cattle menace, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Technological interventions such as In vitro fertilisation (IVF) and sex sorted semen production will address the problem of stray cattle, said Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh here on Tuesday. Responding to questions on the menace, he said no farmer will leave a bull stray if its quality is good and these technologies will ensure better breed quality and help farmers. Mr. Singh was briefing reporters on the important decisions taken and achievements of his Ministry in 100 days of the third term of Narendra Modi government.

He said for the first time in the country artificial insemination services were delivered free of cost at farmers' doorstep and as on date 7.53 crore animals have been covered, 9.15 crore AI have been performed and 5.4 crore farmers were benefited under the programme.

Govt. plans to review wage limit for EPS contribution

Labour Minister Mandaviya says consultations are going on in Ministry on increasing minimum pension under EPS; Ministry may move a Cabinet note on ELI scheme announced in Budget

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday said the Centre was trying to remove the wage ceiling for contributions towards the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) run by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

He said 92% of the subscribers paid a consolidated amount and the Centre was thinking to ease the upper limit so that they could invest more money in the EPS. Mr. Mandaviya was talking to presspersons on the decisions taken by his Ministry in the first 100 days of the third Modi government.

At present, the contributions are payable on the maximum wage ceiling of ₹15,000 and the pension contribution is at the rate of 8.33% of the maximum wage ceiling. "We are trying to increase this limit of ₹15,000," the Minister said. Mr. Mandaviya said consultations were going on in the Ministry on increasing the minimum pension under the EPS. Asked about the delay in distributing the higher pension to those who applied after a Supreme Court verdict, he said the EPFO's platform would be reviewed soon and Mission 3.0 would be implemented to help the subscribers.

The Minister has said the EPFO had increased the limit for auto claim settlement of partial withdrawals to ₹1,00,000. PTI

He said the Ministry would move a Cabinet note on the employment-linked incentive (ELI) scheme announced in the Union Budget. "The Ministry is finalising a Cabinet note on the ELI scheme and it will be soon placed before the Cabinet for approval," he said. Details of the internship scheme were being worked out with the Corporate Affairs Ministry.

The Minister said the eShram portal completed registration of over 30 crore unorganised workers in a short span of three years and more portals would be linked with it so that the workers could search for jobs and look for social security schemes for them using the eShram portal. "The portal will help in identifying registrants who have not yet received the benefits of various schemes so that such workers can be provided schemes' benefit in a targeted manner based on their eligibility," he said.

He said the EPFO had increased the limit for auto claim settlement of partial withdrawals from ₹50,000 to ₹1,00,000. "The facility has been extended for housing, education and marriage in addition to illness. [The time taken to process] Partial withdrawals, which constitute nearly 60% of the total claims, have reduced significantly from 10 days to within three to four days," he said.

SEBI chief's explanation raises more queries: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch had "answered" most of the allegations against them, the Congress on Tuesday said their explanation raised "even more questions".

In a post on X, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said "the facts" put out on their financial dealings had not been contradicted so far by anyone. "The Finance Minister has finally broken the Centre's silence on the issue of the multiple conflicts of interest of the SEBI Chairperson. She has said that the SEBI Chairperson and Mr. Buch are 'answering on allegations of conflict of interest'. But these answers raise even more questions," he said.

"The question is whether the Finance Minister and non-biological PM were aware of these facts since 2022," he said.

SC changes resolution on Chief Justices' appointments

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium on Tuesday changed its July 11 recommendations for appointments of Chief Justices to four High Courts. The Collegium had proposed the appointment of Justice Suresh Kumar Kait, senior puisne judge of the Delhi High Court, as Chief Justice of the J&K and Ladakh High Court. On Tuesday, the Collegium altered the recommendation by proposing Justice Kait as Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

Justice G.S. Sandhawalia, senior-most puisne judge of the Punjab and Haryana HC, had been recommended as Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh HC. However, it is now of the opinion that he could be appointed as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh HC. Again, the Collegium had recommended Justice Tashi Rabstan for the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya HC. However, the Collegium recommended that he could be appointed as the Chief Justice of J&K and Ladakh HC.

No progress in resolution of Demchok and Depsang friction points in 2 years

NEWS ANALYSIS

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

There has been much hype over External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's comments that 75% of disengagement has been completed by India and China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh and the Chinese response that both sides have undertaken disengagement from four areas in the border areas.

However, the fact remains that both sides have undertaken mutually agreed and verified disengagement from five friction points while two more friction points, Demchok and Depsang, remain and there has been no progress towards their resolution in the past two years.

The widespread optimism, once again, of a possible breakthrough between the two countries in achieving further disengagement in the four-year-long stand-off, comes in the run-up to the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Summit in October, which both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are scheduled to attend. This is akin to a similar situation last year before the BRICS Summit in August.

No headway: Last disengagement was a result of understanding reached during the 16th round of military talks in 2022. AFP

Speaking in Geneva on September 12, Mr. Jaishankar said "roughly" about "75% of disengagement problems are sorted out". "We still have some things to do," he said, adding that "there is a bigger issue that both of us have brought forces close up and in that sense, there is a militarisation of the border."

"There has been no change in the ground situation since the last disengagement two years back," a defence official noted. Both sides have stated that after disengagement from the friction areas, they would undertake de-escalation, though the phrase "restoration of *status quo ante*" is being heard less and less. However, there is expectation of a possible disengagement from Demchok, though there is no clarity on any immediate Corps Commander-level talks.

'Generally stable'

Responding to questions on National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's meeting, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning, at a regular press conference on September 13, said, "In recent years, frontline armies of the two countries have realised disengagement from four areas in the western sector of the China-India border, including the Galwan Valley. The China-India border situation is generally stable and under control."

With disengagement undertaken from five of seven points, as stated by officials on several occasions, it is statistically around 71.5%, quite close to 75%, and also withdrawal of forces was acknowledged and verified on the ground, each time, by both sides.

Since the Corps commander-level talks in 2020, the two sides have so far undertaken disengagement from five friction points – from Galwan after the violent clash in June 2020, from the North and South Banks of Pangong Tso in February 2021, from Patrolling Point (PP) 17 in the Gogra-Hot Springs area in August 2021 and PP15 in September 2022. The last disengagement, from PP15, was a result of the understanding reached during the 16th round of Corps Commander-level military talks on July 17, 2022.

Ukraine, Gaza war figure in India-U.S. discussion before Modi's visit for Quad summit

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Senior Indian and U.S. officials discussed global issues, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and Israeli operations in Gaza, during a "2+2 intersessional dialogue" in New Delhi, as defence officials and diplomats met ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. this week.

Mr. Modi will attend the Quad summit in Wilmington, hosted by President Joseph Biden for leaders of the U.S., India, Japan and Australia on Saturday, which a Senior State Department official said will be "historic".

During the meeting on Monday, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence Jedidiah Royal met with their Indian counterparts, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Joint Secretary for the Americas Nagaraj Naidu, and Ministry of Defence Joint Secretary for International Cooperation Vishwesh Negito, to discuss "bilateral strategic and defence priorities, alongside regional and global issues", the MEA said on Tuesday.

Narendra Modi

"The officials discussed a range of issues, across the Indo-Pacific and worldwide, including support for a just and durable peace in Ukraine, as well as support for a ceasefire and humanitarian assistance in Gaza," the U.S. State Department said.

While it is unclear whether the issues in Ukraine and Gaza will find mention in the joint statement after the leaders meet, as the Quad focuses on "Indo-Pacific" issues, it is likely that the leaders will hold discussions on the way forward on both. The meeting in Delaware, Mr. Biden's home State, will also be a farewell, as both Mr. Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida are going to step down in the next few months, while Mr. Albanese faces general election in Australia in 2025. It also follows Mr. Modi's visit to Russia and Ukraine, and India's possible role in negotiations are expected to be discussed.

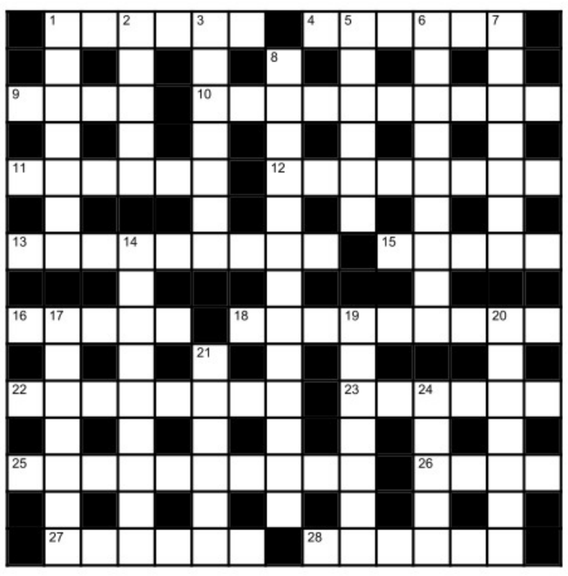
According to sources, the leaders are also expected to focus on strengthening cooperation on semiconductors and building a "more secure" environment in the region through critical and emerging technologies. They would also speak about enhancing Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) mechanisms, including possible joint operations in the oceans in the future. New Delhi has reiterated that the Quad is not a "security framework", unlike other recent U.S. initiatives in the Indo-Pacific region, including the AUKUS arrangement for nuclear submarines with the U.K. and Australia, and other structures with U.S. allies South Korea, Philippines, and New Zealand.

TH CROSSWORD + 14283

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Thin-skinned to speak of and yobbish primarily (6)
4 Roused by image in Stag, excellent at the outset (6)
9 Capital of Laos, looks to captivate (4)
10 Indian lady triumphs primarily by way of shrewd resourcefulness (10)
11 Somehow take on comedian Buster (6)
12 Alloy for digital memory hardware put in position (8)
13 Network takes time to work on human element (9)
15 Princess's help returned with new assistant from the front (5)
16 Box at clubs and collect payment (5)
18 Fluency of one clue rewritten about Qatar's entertaining to begin with (9)
22 Essentially flavour penetrates mind, an ultimate Greek international dish (8)
23 Urges famous golfer to back mischievous child (6)
25 Engineer certifies purchasing right devices (10)
26 Common sense of Latino users displayed (4)
27 America retreats and Sweden enters union to take a county (6)
28 One adapts to powers (6)

Down

1 A square tile sets magically over time (7)
2 Snake, in say Puducherry, moves under water (1-4)
3 Praise from head office Chief Superintendent received by a girl (7)
5 Request child to braid (6)
6 Company division meeting with ICE with spinelessness (9)
7 Garbage collector is mad, nuts in a way (7)
8 Queen takes ill in train crash, arises in the second half and gets calmer (13)
14 Note; 4 employed in galleries spruces up (9)
17 Regarding work, nurse at Sweden starts again (7)
19 Made good money in quarter? Paper's wrong (5,2)
20 Paints company line is owned by us (7)
21 Blather in WhatsApp, very loud against the French (6)
24 Writer these days get small change (5)

SUDOKU

	4			7			3	6
6		9		3		5		
								2
9		8		4			6	3
			1		3			
3	5			8		9		1
8								
		2		1		6		9
1	9			6			5	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	P	R	E	C	I	O	U	S	S	T	O	N	E	
F		E		R		T		C		A		I		K
O	S	T	R	A	C	I	S	E		B	R	A	V	O
E		A		Z		O		N		L		C		R
T	R	I	N	E		S	T	A	T	E	S	I	D	E
U		N				E		R		W		N		A
S	W	E	A	T	S		F	I	N	A	L			
		R		W		B		O		R		F		
			C	O	N	E	Y		S	E	W	I	N	G
L		D		H		L		A				N		A
A	N	O	M	A	L	O	U	S		S	P	A	I	N
T		U		N		W		P		M		L		N
E	M	B	E	D		P	R	I	M	E	T	I	M	E
R		L		E		A		R		A		S		T
	T	E	N	D	E	R	H	E	A	R	T	E	D	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	4	9	2	8	3	7	6	5
3	5	8	7	1	6	4	2	9
6	2	7	9	5	4	8	3	1
5	7	6	1	3	8	2	9	4
2	1	3	4	9	5	6	8	7
8	9	4	6	7	2	1	5	3
9	3	2	8	4	7	5	1	6
4	8	5	3	6	1	9	7	2
7	6	1	5	2	9	3	4	8

FAITH

The role of preceptors

Acharyas lead us to Lord Narayana, said Kazhiyur B. Devarajan in a discourse. But they cannot give us birth. So, when we reach Lord Narayana through an Acharya, we feel reassured that the result can only be liberation. Pillai Lokacharya wrote a work titled Srivachana Bhushanam. The title shows us that the work is an ornament for every seeker of moksha. The work has four *prakaranas* (cantos). But it can be seen as dealing with six topics. They are Purushakara Vaibhavam, Sadhanasya Gauravam, Tadadikari Krityam, Satguroopa Sevanam, Haridayam Ahetukeem and Gurorupaayataam. Purushakara Vaibhavam is about the role of Goddess Mahalakshmi as the one who intercedes on our behalf. Sadhanasya Gauravam is about the greatness of *prapatti* (surrender). Tadadikari Krityam lays down the rules to be followed by one who has resorted to *prapatti*.

Satguroopa Sevanam deals with how we should seek a preceptor and serve him. Haridayam Ahetukeem is about the Lord's mercy. Gurorupaayataam elaborates on the role of the preceptor in enabling us to cross the ocean of samsara. Acharyas play an important role in our lives. In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna tells us about the easiest way to reach Him, namely *Saranagati*, or total surrender to Him. He sent down Acharyas to guide us.

INBRIEF

PN Gadgil Jewellers debuts at 74% premium on the BSE

PN Gadgil Jewellers Ltd. on Tuesday listed on the BSE at ₹834, a premium of almost 74% to the issue price of ₹480. But the stock closed at ₹792.80, or about 65% more than the issue price but 4.94% less than the listing price. "We want to further leverage this platform [exchange] to strengthen our brand and grow more.... and add value to all our stake holders," said Saurabh Gadgil, Managing Director, PN Gadgil Jewellers, while speaking at the listing ceremony.

TVS Holdings buys 100% stake in TVS Digital for ₹4.14 crore

TVS Holdings Ltd. (TVSHL) announced the acquisition of a 100% stake in TVS Digital Ltd. from TVS Motor Co. Ltd., for cash consideration of ₹4.14 crore. Consequently, TVS Digital has become a wholly owned subsidiary of TVSHL. Separately, Emerald Haven Realty Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of TVSHL, said it has agreed to acquire an additional 6.33% securities from ASK in Emerald Haven Town and Country Pvt. Ltd. (EHTCPL) for ₹2.50 crore by September 30.

JBM Ecolife raises $100 mn from ADB, AIIB for e-buses

JBM Ecolife Mobility (P) Ltd., a joint venture subsidiary of JBM Auto Ltd., said it had secured $100 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for supplying and operating electric buses under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model in multiple States pan-India in phased manner. Currently, JBM has deployed more than 1,500 electric buses across 10 States and more than 15 major airports in India.

Gold tide lifts imports to record

August imports rose to an all-time high of $64.36 bn as inflows of gold doubled to a record $10.1 bn; with exports sliding 9.32%, the trade deficit widened to a 10-month high of $29.65 billion, the second-highest shortfall in merchandise trade

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's goods exports shrank 9.32% to $34.71 billion in August, while the import bill rose 3.3% to an all-time high of $64.36 billion, fuelled by a doubling in gold imports to a record $10.1 billion.

The trade deficit widened to a 10-month high of $29.65 billion, the second-highest monthly gap in merchandise trade.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal sought to allay concerns, arguing that the trade deficit should not be a matter of concern for a developing economy with high growth. "To the extent there are no foreign exchange issues, it should not matter," he asserted.

Silver lining: Exports performance beyond gems and jewellery and petroleum, give comfort, says Commerce Secretary Barthwal. PTI

On the surge in gold imports, the top trade official pointed to plausible factors such as the recent reduction in import duty from 15% to 6%, the dip in global gold prices and the fact that jewellers stock up for the festive and wedding season around this time.

While oil imports slid 32.4% to $11 billion, petroleum products saw a sharper 37.6% decline to under $6 billion. Gems and jewellery exports also fell 23.1% to just below $2 billion.

"The decline in value, with oil prices dropping six dollars, was a key reason for lower petroleum exports while the gems and jewellery sector has been impacted by sanctions imposed by G7 nations after the Russia-Ukraine conflict that has made it tougher to procure rough diamonds," Mr. Barthwal said.

'Current account gap'

"However, the performance of our exports beyond gems and jewellery and petroleum, gives us comfort... that despite the clouds of uncertainty hovering globally, India is still a bright spot," he noted.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar reckoned that the "unexpectedly sharp widening" in the merchandise trade deficit in August could widen the current account deficit to 1.5-2% of GDP in the current quarter.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	83,080	0.11
US Dollar	83.76	0.12
Brent oil	73.63	1.54

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2975.20	-9.70
Adani Ports	1426.60	-14.10
Apollo Hosp	7008.05	-23.30
Asian Paints	3312.80	-23.00
Axis Bank	1232.10	1.05
Bajaj Auto	11950.30	261.95
Bajaj Finserv	1848.70	-8.90
Bajaj Finance	7365.50	19.75
Bharti Airtel	1661.75	26.30
BPCL	338.40	-2.25
Britannia Ind	6111.05	48.05
Cipla	1671.80	12.40
Coal India	488.50	-4.75
Divis Lab	5452.20	-27.15
Dr Reddys Lab	6631.65	-15.45
Eicher Motors	4850.20	-49.00
Grasim Ind	2754.85	-10.45
HCL Tech	1813.75	1.90
HDFC Bank	1668.80	-2.15
HDFC Life	698.90	-2.45
Hero MotoCorp	5961.20	181.75
Hindalco	683.00	-2.15
Hind Unilever	2873.50	6.40
ICICI Bank	1268.10	5.25
IndusInd Bank	1466.35	-3.85
Infosys	1952.55	2.30
ITC	507.75	-3.35
JSW Steel	964.25	-6.75
Kotak Bank	1846.65	15.35
L&T	3695.20	32.95
LTIMindtree Ltd.	6455.75	32.30
M&M	2787.65	30.25
Maruti Suzuki	12245.75	-43.25
NestleIndia	2546.85	-2.75
NTPC	416.30	5.20
ONGC	294.65	2.15
PowerGrid Corp	336.90	-1.35
Reliance Ind	2944.60	1.90
SBI Life	1819.15	-2.10
State Bank	782.90	-2.65
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3424.60	5.65
Sun Pharma	1866.10	3.15
TataConsumerProduct	1220.25	1.75
Tata Motors	974.95	-13.45
Tata Steel	152.82	-1.39
TCS	4505.65	-7.60
Tech Mahindra	1651.55	2.55
Titan	3767.40	26.75
UltraTech Cement	11645.65	3.00
Wipro	551.90	0.00

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 17

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.55	83.87
Euro	93.03	93.39
British Pound	110.38	110.81
Japanese Yen (100)	59.38	59.61
Chinese Yuan	11.77	11.82
Swiss Franc	98.89	99.28
Singapore Dollar	64.58	64.84
Canadian Dollar	61.47	61.72
Malaysian Ringitt	19.59	19.72
Australian Dollar	56.46	56.67

Source:Indian Bank

WPI inflation slows to 4-month low of 1.31%

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Inflation based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) slowed to a four-month low of 1.31% in August from July's 2.04%, aided by a slight moderation in the pace of price rise in food items and manufactured goods, and fuel and power costs slipping into a deflation of 0.7%, from a 1.7% uptick, official data showed on Tuesday.

Food inflation eased to a 10-month low of 3.3% in August, but this was again spurred by a year-on-year decline in prices for vegetables and eggs, meat and fish, which dropped 10% and 0.7%, respectively.

Base effects played a key role in this moderation as vegetable prices were up 48.4% last August. Inflation in primary food articles was 3.1%, from a steep 11.4% a year earlier, but several items witnessed a sharp spurt in prices despite last year's high base.

Cereals inflation remained firm at 8.44%, with paddy prices up 9.1% and wheat inflation accelerating to 7.3% from July's 7%. Pulses inflation was a sharp 18.6% while potato inflation sped to 78%.

Price rise in onions also stayed sharp at 65.8%.

Windfall tax on crude oil cut to zero

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday slashed windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to 'nil' per tonne with effect from September 18.

The tax is levied in the form of a special additional excise duty and is notified fortnightly based on average oil prices in two weeks.

The new rates are effective from September 18, an official notification said.

The last such revision took place effective August 31 when the windfall tax on crude petroleum was set at ₹1,850 per tonne.

'Bangladesh issue may not hit India Inc.'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The political upheaval in neighbouring Bangladesh can have 'small but negligible negative impact' on cotton yarn, power, footwear, soft luggage and fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sectors while ship breaking, jute, readymade garments (RMG) should benefit, Crisil Ratings said in a study adding for most other sectors, the impact would be insignificant.

Stating developments in Bangladesh had not had a significant impact on India's trade and going forward, it said it does not foresee any near-term impact on the credit quality of India Inc. either.

However, prolonged disruption can affect the revenue profiles and working-capital cycles of some export-oriented industries for which Bangladesh is either a demand centre or a production hub, it added.

Panacea, Sanofi settle vaccine patent violation suit

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Panacea Biotec shares touched a new 52-week high on Tuesday after Sanofi Healthcare India agreed to not commercially produce its fully liquid hexavalent vaccine Shan6 in India, directly or indirectly, and withdrew its opposition to the former's patent on hexavalent vaccine as part of a settlement.

Panacea had petitioned the Delhi High Court seeking to restrain Sanofi from marketing its vaccine, contending that marketing of Sanofi's vaccine would infringe the patent for its wP-IPV based fully liquid hexavalent vaccine EasySix.

Subscription opens for SBI MF Nifty fund

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

SBI Mutual Fund's New Fund Offer (NFO) Nifty 500 Index Fund opened for subscription on Tuesday.

The fund will have 95% of its investments in equity and the rest in other instruments, including G-Secs. It will cover 92.1% of the full market capitalisation of all listed companies in NSE, said SBI MF in a statement.

The fund's objective is to "provide returns that correspond to the total returns of the securities as represented by the underlying index, subject to tracking error" according to the statement.

The New Fund Offer closes on September 24, according to SBI MF.

"Investors who seek exposure to not only established large-cap companies but also mid- and small-caps, passively and at a relatively lower cost can consider investing in this fund" said Shamsher Singh, MD & CEO, SBI Funds Management Limited in the statement.

SBI MF rated the fund as 'very risky.'

ArcelorMittal's India JV said to eye tax-free LNG imports

Reuters
NEW DELHI

ArcelorMittal's India joint venture has written to the Centre seeking to remove import tax on liquefied natural gas (LNG) for steelmaking to meet its decarbonisation goals, the letter seen by Reuters showed.

Steel production accounts for 8% of global carbon emissions. Replacing coal as a fuel with LNG can remove some of them, but raises production costs.

"To meet both domestic and global steel demands, we propose a nil rate of duty on LNG imports for steel manufacturing," ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India wrote in the Sept. 2 letter.

AI to spend $400 mn to spruce up fleet interiors

Reuters

Tata Group owned Air India said on Tuesday it would spend $400 million to refurbish the interiors of 67 planes, or more than half its fleet, as part of a multimillion dollar transformation of the former state-run carrier.

Since taking control of the carrier in 2022, Tata has spent millions of dollars on hundreds of new jets and on a new logo, branding and plane livery, among other upgrades.

Now it is refitting the interiors of older planes - 27 narrow-body Airbus A320neo and 40 wide-body Boeing 787s and 777s.

'Mercedes-Benz India eyeing double-digit growth in CY24'

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Santosh Iyer

Mercedes Benz India aims to end 2024 with double-digit growth and has one more product lined up for introduction next month, according to a top official.

"In the first half of the current year, we retailed 9,262 cars, an increase of over 9%," MD and CEO Santosh Iyer said during an interaction. "This year will be the best-ever year with double-digit growth over last year," he added.

In H1 (January-June), sales grew 9%. "In H2, we will grow by double digits and full-year growth will also be in double digits."

Talking about EVs, he said during 2023, EV expansion to total sales was 2.5% and this year, it had already touched 5%.

"EV penetration has doubled compared to last year and we should be able to continue to grow with more and more transition to EVs with a wider range of product portfolio."

As much as 95% of the cars they retailed in India were locally made at Chakan in Maharashtra and only 5% was imported. In that 95%, indigenisation level was more than 30%.

"Localisation has its advantages and whichever products we try to localise in India, we can give it at a better price point compared with CBU [completely-built unit] cars."

The carmaker will unveil a long-wheel based ICE E-class sedan in October. Mr. Iyer said they had made an additional investment of ₹200 crore in 2024 in manufacturing operations, new product start-ups and digitisation of manufacturing processes.

With this, total investment in the India arm now exceeded ₹3,000 crore, Mr. Iyer added.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Electrical (General), Construction, Chennai Egmore
Tender Notice No. E-CN-MDU-EOT2-2024-25 Dated: 13.09.2024

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Dy Chief Elec Engineer/Gen/Cons/ S. Rly/ Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites E-Tender for the following works.

Name of work: Provision of High mast for Electrical lighting arrangements for Pit lines at RMM station - - Works Contract.

Tender Notice No. and Date		**E-CN-MDU-EOT2-2024-25, dt.13.09.2024**
1.	Period of completion	Three months
2.	Approximate cost of work	Rs.77,45,500.30
3.	Cost of tender form	Nil
4.	Earnest Money deposited	Rs. 1,55,000/-
5.	Tender closing date	07.10.2024.

Complete details can be seen **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Dy.Chief Elec Engineer/Gen/Cons/ Egmore, Chennai-8.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture
(Yalahanka Zone) Amruthahalli
Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru - 560 092.

No: SADH(YNK)TENDER/05/2024-25 **Dated: 17.09.2024**

LETTER OF INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two Cover System) (Rates Excluding GST)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only) The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Yalahanka) (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites Tenders to implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies /Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department.

Sl No	Name of the Works/Category
1	Beautification, Horticulture Maintenance works and other Emergency works at Byatarayanapura Assembly Constituency (Others) **Estimate Cost: Rs.43,19,588/- EMD Amout: 86,392/-**
2	Beautification, Horticulture Maintenance works and other Emergency works at Yalahanka Assembly Constituency (Others) **Estimate Cost: Rs.25,39,089/- EMD Amout: 50,782/-**
3	Maintenance and Purchase of Nursery inputs, plants and other works in Yalahanka Assembly Constituency (Others) **Estimate Cost: Rs.28,67,970/- EMD Amout: 57,360/-**
4	Landscape Development and other works at K Jairam Road, MCHS Layout in Ward No-08, Amruthahalli Ward in Byatarayanapura Assembly Constituency. (Others) **Estimate Cost: Rs.21,13,170/- EMD Amout: 42,264/-**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Date of Notification is **17.09.2024. (2)** Tender can be downloaded from **19.09.2024. (3)** Tender Closing date **27.09.2024** at **4:00** pm **(4)** Technical Bid Opening Date **30.09.2024** at **4:30** pm. **(5)** Financially Bid Opening Date After approval of Technical Bid. **Sd/-**

Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Yalahanka Zone), BBMP Bengaluru

City Municipal Council, Ramanagara
Ramanagara District - 562 159.
Ph. : 080 - 2727 1286, E-mail : ka.ramanagara.cmc@gmail.com
Website : www.ramanagaracity.mrc.gov.in

No. : CMC/ES/Eproc/CR/06/2024-25 **Date : 17-09-2024**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP Portal Only)

As per Karnataka Tender Transparency 1999-2000 act 2000 rule accordingly Tender has been invited under signed Officer through KPPP Standard Tender Documents for **Construction of Proposed 22 TPD MRF Centre (Material Recovery Facility) of PEB Structure (Primary & Secondary Shed) at Sy. No. 166, Kasaba Hobli, Harisandra Grama, CMC Ramanagara,** Eligible contractor registered in Public Work Department can participate for the work Tender Called through **KPPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. for Indent No. : DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT28428. Maximum Amount of Rs. 260.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount is Rs. 3.29 Lakhs** Participant can upload through **KPPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in within Dated : 03-10-2024 upto 5.30 p.m. as informed all the required Documents to be Submitted. For more information Contact Engineering Section of CMC Officer and also from the Official Website : www.ramanagaracity.mrc.gov.in**

Sd/- Administrator, CMC, Ramanagara. **Sd/- Commissioner, CMC, Ramanagara.**

DIPR/Ramanagar/324/Manipal/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE (HSFC),
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
Antariksh Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560094, Ph:080-22172614/2613/5610

e-Tender Notice No.: HSFC/CMG/2(12)/C/119/2024-25 Date: 17.09.2024

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

On behalf of the President of India, online item rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work.

Title of work	**Construction of GLR / Pump Room, Pumps and pumping mains for Fire Fighting at HSFC Campus, Devanahalli.**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 108.40 Lakhs**
Period of Completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**(06) Six months**
Period during which the tender documents can be requested	From: **11:00 Hrs on 18.09.2024 to 23:30 Hrs on 06.10.2024**
Period during which the tender documents can be downloaded	From: **11:10 Hrs on 18.09.2024 to 23:59 Hrs on 06.10.2024**
Bid clarifications	From: **11.30 Hrs on 18.09.2024 to 10:30 Hrs on 07.10.2024**
Reply to Bid clarification	**Up to 17:00 Hrs on 07.10.2024**
Last date & time for receipt of tenders	**Up to 11:00 Hrs on 08.10.2024**
Due date & time of opening of tenders (Technical Bid)	**11:30 Hrs on 08.10.2024**
Earnest Money Deposit EMD	**Rs. 2,16,800/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website: **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Head CMD, CMG, HSFC.

SAN FRANCISCO

Moscow condemns Meta's ban on Russian state media outlets

AFP

Meta said it is banning Russian state media outlets from its apps around the world, prompting an angry reaction from the Kremlin on Tuesday. The ban comes after the U.S. accused RT and employees of the state-run outlet of funnelling $10 million through shell entities to fund influence campaigns on social media channels. AFP

GENEVA

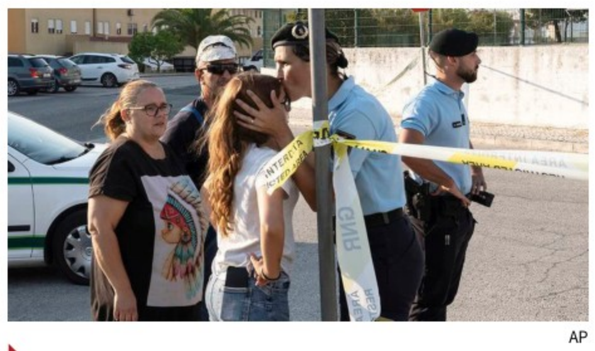
'Unprecedented' repression is plunging Venezuela into crisis: UN

AP

"Unprecedented" repression including arbitrary use of power is plunging Venezuela into an acute human rights crisis, as Caracas steps up efforts to quash all opposition, a UN fact-finding mission said on Tuesday. Protests following President Nicolas Maduro's re-election have left 27 people dead and 2,400 arrested. AFP

LISBON

12-year-old boy stabs and injures six children at a school in Portugal



AP

A 12-year-old boy stabbed and injured six other children in a rare episode of violence inside a Portuguese school on Tuesday. Portuguese national police said that the victims were from 11 to 14 years old in the attack at the school in Azambuja near Lisbon. Five of the injured were girls who suffered light wounds on their arms. AP

BAMAKO

Militants attack a military training camp near the airport in Mali

AP

Jihadis attacked a military training camp near the airport in Mali's capital on Tuesday as explosions were heard in the area. Within hours, the government said it was temporarily closing the airport in Bamako. A security official said there was unspecified loss of life and significant damage, without elaborating. AP

Nine killed as pagers used by Hezbollah explode at one go

Iranian Ambassador among the more than 2,800 injured in the simultaneous explosions across Lebanon, Syria; Hezbollah blames Israel for what appeared to be a sophisticated, remote attack

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Pagers used by hundreds of members of the militant group Hezbollah exploded near simultaneously in Lebanon and Syria on Tuesday, killing at least nine people – including an 8-year-old girl – and wounding more than 2,800, officials said. They blamed Israel in what appeared to be a sophisticated, remote attack.

Among those wounded was Iran's Ambassador to Lebanon. The incident came amid rising tensions between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah, which have exchanged fire across the Israel-Lebanon border since the October 7 attack by Hamas that sparked the war in Gaza.

Synchronous strike: People gather outside a hospital in Beirut after more than 2,800 people were injured in pager blasts . REUTERS

The pagers that exploded had been newly acquired by Hezbollah after the group's leader ordered members to stop using cell phones, warning they could be tracked by Israeli intelligence. A Hezbollah official said the pagers were a new brand the group had not used before.

At about 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, pagers started heating up and then exploding in the pockets and hands of those carrying them – particularly in a southern Beirut suburb and the Beqaa region of eastern Lebanon where Hezbollah has a strong presence, and in Damascus, where several Hezbollah members were wounded.

The Israeli military declined to comment.

Bangladesh interim govt. gives Army policing powers

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The interim government of Bangladesh on Tuesday granted magisterial and policing powers to the Bangladesh Army. An order issued by the Ministry of Public Administration announced the Bangladesh Army will exercise the granted powers for the next 60 days.

Bangladesh Army chief General Waker-uz -Zaman had taken charge briefly after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled the country and took refuge in India. He however took a back seat with the swearing in ceremony of the interim government on August 7. The delegation of magisterial powers to the Army will allow the army to carry out police and jail related functions as well as the task of executive magistrates.

Ceding control: Bangladesh Army had taken a backseat with the swearing-in ceremony of the interim government on August 7. AP

Policing in Bangladesh has been severely impacted since the collapse of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5 as the fall of the government rendered the police vulnerable to retribution from the masses because of the role of the police in the crackdown against the anti-Hasina protesters.

The interim government led by Mohammad Yunus took charge on August 7 but has faced continuous law and order challenges ever since.

BNP holds rally, seeks new election in Bangladesh

Associated Press
DHAKA

Thousands of activists and leaders of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party on Tuesday rallied in the nation's capital to demand a democratic transition through an election as an interim government has yet to outline a timeframe for new voting.

The supporters gathered in front of BNP headquarters in Dhaka, where they chanted slogans.

In his recent speeches, chief adviser Muhammad Yunus has not outlined when a new national election would be held and said they would stay in power as long as the people want them to stay.

Sri Lanka's disenchanted Tamils are divided during this election

Meera Srinivasan
JAFFNA

Sri Lanka's northern Tamil voters are torn during this presidential election, between a candidate who may win, and one who will certainly lose.

While some are backing one of the frontrunners among the Sinhalese candidates, others have decided to support a Tamil candidate. Every voter knows well that "Tamil common candidate" P. Ariyanethiran – fielded jointly by some political and civil society groups based in the island nation's north and east – cannot win, given the numeric reality of Sri Lanka's electoral map. The Sinhalese majority makes up around 75% of the country that was torn apart by bitter ethnic conflict between the two communities.

"After the civil war ended in 2009, our people hoped that even if their political rights were denied, they could live with some security and dignity. Listening to our [Tamil] political leadership, they backed different candidates in past elections. What did we gain?" asks Fr. Santhiyogu Marcus, President of the Mannar Citizens Committee.

For at least two decades, Tamils had a straightforward choice and delivered a bloc vote – except when the rebel Tamil Tigers enforced a boycott in 2005 – in the presidential elections. They despised the Rajapaksa clan, accused of serious human rights violations during and after the civil war. They emphatically rejected Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2010 and 2015, and Gotabaya Rajapaksa in 2019. The main Tamil party representing Tamils of the north and east, too, invariably backed the chief challenger of the Rajapaksas in every national election.

Little closure: Fifteen years after the civil war ended, the Tamils of Sri Lanka are yet to find solutions to various problems. AFP

Altered landscape

However, this is the first election campaign in 20 years that is not dominated by a Rajapaksa surname. Two years after a people's uprising evicted Gotabaya Rajapaksa from office in 2022, Sri Lanka's political terrain looks starkly different. The September 21 election, the first poll since, has three candidates at the fore – incumbent Ranil Wickremesinghe, opposition politicians Sajith Premadasa and Anura Kumara Dissanayake, one of whom is expected to win.

"Ariyanethiran is not seen as an individual who will win this contest, but as someone who is a symbol of our identity and struggles," Fr. Marcus observes. Many acknowledge his bleak electoral prospects but say they will back him nevertheless, to deliver a "strong message" to the southern political establishment and the international community. On the other hand, critics of the move term it "political suicide". Abandoning pragmatic negotiation with the southern leadership would further isolate Tamils and weaken their bargaining power, they contend.

Fifteen years after the end of the civil war which cost tens of thousands of civilian lives, Tamils in the north and east are unable to live in peace. Their lands are systematically grabbed by state agencies, their call for truth and justice over alleged war crimes remain, the whereabouts of scores of forcibly missing persons are unknown, a just political solution is elusive, and the war-battered economy has not created decent jobs or livelihoods.

In this context, sections see backing the Tamil candidate as a way of airing their frustration – not just with the national leadership, but also with their own, deeply divided Tamil political leadership. "Tamil leaders are showing us that they cannot be united in this struggle. The parties have split and there are so many splinter groups. They have weakened our position so much," says K. Rajachandran, leader of a Jaffna-based fisheries cooperative. "So, we want to tell our Tamil politicians, even if you cannot stand united, the Tamil people will come together behind this common candidate."

Fragmented polity

The northern Tamil polity is in shreds, with prominent leaders taking poll positions ranging from backing a southern candidate; campaigning for the Tamil "common candidate"; to boycotting the polls altogether.

The once-powerful Tamil National Alliance (TNA), led by the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Katchi (ITAK), has collapsed, with two other constituents breaking away some years ago. Even the ITAK is marred by serious internal divisions, seen in the conflicting positions aired by its members on a daily basis in the run-up to the polls. The contradictions within were no secret earlier but have become more pronounced after the passing of senior Tamil leader R. Sampanthan in June.

Earlier this month, the ITAK, through its Jaffna legislator M.A. Sumanthiran, announced its support for Mr. Premadasa. Meanwhile, ITAK legislator Sivagnanam Shritharan is canvassing for Mr. Ariyanethiran, and senior leader Mavai Senathirajah continues to give mixed signals. "Voters are finding it very confusing this election," notes Rajany Rajeshwary, founder of Vallamai, a Jaffna-based movement for social change. "I fear that our votes will be split, and we will expose our weakness," she says.

Meanwhile, some voters, especially youth, are disillusioned. "In the south, they tell us 'think and vote as a Sri Lankan'. How can I do that when their discriminatory actions keep reminding me that I am Tamil?" asks Marynathan Edison, a fisherman and environmentalist in Mannar.

Myanmar sinking into rights abyss, says UN

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The UN on Tuesday provided accounts of horrifying torture and an overall worsening rights situation in Myanmar, amid intensifying hostilities and the absence of rule of law.

"Myanmar is plumbing the depths of the human rights abyss," James Rodehaver, head of the United Nations rights office's Myanmar team, said about the country's junta regime.

IndianOil
CIN : L23201MH1959GOI011388
Research & Development Centre, Faridabad
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
IOCL intends to produce Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) through co-processing of feedstocks like Used Cooking Oil (UCO) / Tree Borne Oil (TBO) / Tallow along with conventional ATF feed in 3 IOCL units for which catalyst changeover & low-cost revamp is required. An EOI is floated in IOCL website requesting participation of technology licensors/catalyst vendors. Last date for participation in EOI is **01.11.2024 1730 hrs**. For further details kindly refer the EOI **No: RDM/EoI/2024-25/06** in following given weblink **(https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app)**

China says it tailed a U.S. aircraft over Taiwan Strait

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

The Chinese military tailed a U.S. aircraft that flew through the politically sensitive Taiwan Strait on Tuesday, Beijing's Army said, vowing to "resolutely defend national sovereignty".

"On September 17, a U.S. P-8A anti-submarine patrol aircraft flew through the Taiwan Strait," Li Xi, a senior captain and spokesperson for the Eastern Theater Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), said in a statement.

China views self-ruled Taiwan as a renegade province and claims jurisdiction over the Taiwan Strait

The PLA theatre command "organised fighter jets to tail and stand guard against the U.S. aircraft's flight, dealing with it in accordance with the law", Mr. Li said.

"Theater troops are on constant high alert to resolutely defend national sovereignty and security and regional peace and stability."

Beijing views self-ruled Taiwan as a renegade province and claims jurisdiction over the body of water that separates the island from the Chinese mainland.

The U.S. Navy's Seventh Fleet said in a statement that a "P-8A Poseidon transited the Taiwan Strait in international airspace on Sept. 17 (local time)".

The statement did not mention the aircraft being tailed by the Chinese military.

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LTD.
NOTICE INVITING BID
Bids for "Shifting / Undergrounding of 132kV Basni - NPH line passing through the campus of AIIMS, Jodhpur (on the request of AIIMS, Jodhpur) with 630 sq. mm, 132kV XLPE cable system and D/C monopole including detailed route survey, laying and installation of cable and monopole alongwith associated accessories/items and civil works against specification No.RVPN/EHV/A&SP/TN-124 [UBN No. VPN2425WLOB01419]" are invited from interested bidders up to 18.10.2024 (04:00PM). Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in)** of the state and **http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpnl** departmental website.
RRVPN/TR-6359/2024 Superintending Engineer
Raj.Samwad/C/24/5271 (Automation, N/M& SP), Jaipur

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office: PSEB H.O. Building, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Contact No. 96461-18773
TENDER ENQUIRY No.: QQ-2356/PO-P
Chief Purchase Officer/ MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistory Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-Tender for Procurement of 5,900 Nos. 1-Phase, 11KV, 75 Amp, Single Throw, Single Break GO Switches as per PSPCL specification no. QQ-2356/PSPCL/PO-P. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 18.09.2024 onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
C - 698/24 76155/12/3451/2023/37746

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
LOWER VAIGAI BASIN CIRCLE, SIVAGANGAI – 630562.
TNWRD
Pre-qualification cum Lump sum contract item rate in two cover system
e-Tender Notice No.02/LVB/2024-25 Dated: 16.09.2024.
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu e-Tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer, WRD, Lower Vaigai Basin Circle, Sivagangai from the contractors registered in Water Resources Department in the appropriate class Through Online mentioned below as prescribed in the website.
Tender Date : 23.10.2024
Total No. of Work : 1 No
Total Value of Work : Rs. 3930.73 Lakhs
EMD : Rs. 19.80 Lakhs
The tender document and other details will be available from **20.09.2024** onwards in the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** to enable the tenderers to view and download the e-tender document through online at free of cost and submission of tenders shall be done only through online. Other details can be obtained from the office of the Superintending Engineer, WRD, Lower Vaigai Basin Circle, Sivagangai in the working days during office hours. Tender extension if any will be uploaded in the website only
Superintending Engineer, WRD.,
DIPR/3731/TENDER/2024 Lower Vaigai Basin Circle, Sivagangai.

CLASS

Skipper Rohit backs Rahul to again flourish in Test cricket

R. RAGU

Rohit Sharma backed K.L. Rahul to pick up from where he left off in Tests ahead of the Bangladesh series. "He got a 100 in South Africa and an 80 in the first Test against England but got injured. I hope he continues from where he left off. He has the game to play the spinners and seamers. I don't see any reason why he can't flourish in Tests."

EXUBERANT BUNCH

Rohit sees the positives in the Indian team's young players

R. RAGU

Rohit Sharma praised India's young players like Yashasvi Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel and Sarfaraz Khan. "Jaiswal had a great series when we played the last time. Jurel showed what he is capable of as well with the bat, getting those runs under pressure in very tough situations. Sarfaraz, too, is fearless and does not worry too much."

UP FOR IT

Gambhir understands the pulse of the game, says Karthik

R. RAGU

Dinesh Karthik backed coach Gautam Gambhir to come good in his first red-ball assignment. "He'll be switched on throughout. He is someone who has navigated through tough waters well. He's got the acumen to understand the pulse of the game. He is in an embryonic stage as a coach, but I have full confidence that he'll deliver."

FAMILIAR FOES

We do not need to make a separate strategy, says captain Rohit

R. RAGU

Rohit Sharma said there isn't any need for unique strategies to counter the opposition. "We don't think much about the opposition. India has played cricket against all teams. You don't need to make a separate strategy. One or two new guys come to the team (opposition), you can move forward by thinking about them."

India fights off a dogged China for record-extending fifth title

Defender Jugraj Singh scores a rare field goal as the defending champion toils hard before getting the better of the host

Flying high: The Indian team celebrates a title triumph in a tournament in which it won all its matches.

ACT

Press Trust of India
HULUNBUIR (CHINA)

A determined India claimed its fifth Asian Champions Trophy title with a fighting 1-0 victory over host China here on Tuesday, in a tournament in which it won all its matches.

Defender Jugraj Singh scored a rare field goal as the defending champion toiled hard before getting the better of its opponent.

It was not easy for the Harmanpreet Singh-led India as it failed to break the Chinese defence in the first three quarters.

Eventually, Jugraj broke the deadlock in the 51st minute to hand the Paris Olympics bronze medallist the win against a resolute Chinese side, which was playing in only its second international tournament final.

Pakistan third

Earlier in the day, Pakistan defeated Korea 5-2 to bag the third spot in the six-team competition.

India started the contest as favourite, having defeated China 3-0 in the opening league game, but the final turned out to be a very close affair.

It was a keenly-contested battle in the first two quarters, even though India had better scoring chances.

The Chinese defended deep and troubled their rivals with brisk counterattacks.

Raj Kumar Pal had the first shy at the goal for India but his effort was saved by goalkeeper Wang Weihao.

Raj Kumar then earned India's first penalty corner in the 10th minute with some brilliant stick work, which resulted in another set piece but skipper Harmanpreet was off target.

Two minutes later, Nilakanta Sharma induced a sharp save from Wang and before the Chinese goalkeeper showed brilliant reflexes to deny Sukhjeet Singh after being fed by Jugraj.

Seconds from the end of the first quarter, India conceded a penalty corner but Krishan Bahadur Pathak was alert in front of the goal. The script was the same in the second quarter with India enjoying most of the possession and China relying on counters.

In the 27th minute, Sukhjeet Singh secured a penalty corner but Harmanpreet's attempt hit the post, as China did enough to hold India goalless at half time.

The nimble-footed Chinese came out with renewed vigour after the change of ends, mounting a series of attacks on the Indian citadel.

China secured its second penalty corner in the 38th minute but the Indian defence was up to the task.

The Chinese continued their aggressive intent, earning back-to-back penalty corners in the 40th minute but India goalkeeper Pathak was alert under the bar.

It required a brilliant burst from Harmanpreet to finally break the deadlock.

The in-form India captain sneaked into the Chinese circle with some fine stick work and neatly passed the ball to fellow defender Jugraj, who pushed it in past the opposition goalkeeper, as India heaved a sigh of relief.

Indian men and women making the right moves in Budapest Olympiad

CHESS

Sports Bureau

It is not often that a truly global competition featuring 180 nations begins with India as the top seed. At the halfway stage in the Chess Olympiad at Budapest, the Indian women have justified their top billing: they are in the sole lead position.

The Indian men have done slightly better than their seeding so far. Seeded second in the open section, they are also in the sole lead.

Another five rounds remain, but India is well placed to score a double - and even to improve upon the bronze medal it won in both sections of the Chennai edition two years ago.

At Budapest, India is the only team, in either section, to have won every match. The men and the women have been brilliant so far.

While everyone has contributed, two have been outstanding.

Arjun Erigaisi, the World No. 4, has won all his six games and that is not easy to do in a top-quality event like the Olympiad.

The decision to play him on the third board despite him being the highest-rated player in the team has proved right. On the top two boards, D. Gukesh and R. Praggnanandhaa have done well, too. So has Vidit Gujrathi on the fourth board.

Leading the charge: Arjun and Divya have been exceptional for India. FIDE

Pendyala Harikrishna has delivered whenever his services are required as a reserve player. Arjun's win in the sixth round was crucial in India's victory against Hungary.

Like Arjun, Divya Deshmukh has been exceptional on the women's third board, winning five games and drawing one. On Monday, while all her three teammates - Dronavalli Harika, R. Vaishali and Tania Sachdev - drew, she won her game to lead India to victory in the match against Armenia.

Harika, the strongest Indian woman in the Hungarian capital after Koneru Humpy chose not to travel, may have run into rough weather a bit, but her teammates - Vantika Agrawal completes the squad - have ensured the ship was steadied always.

When the tournament resumes on Wednesday after a day's rest, the Indian women will take on the third-seed China, which has looked good even without its best players.

China is also the opponent for the Indian men in the seventh round. That means a potential top-board clash between Gukesh and Ding Liren, who will battle it out for the World championship, starting in Singapore on November 23.

The standings after six rounds:

Open: 1. India 12 points; 2-4. Vietnam, China and Iran 11; 5. Uzbekistan 10.

Women: 1. India 12; 2-3. Georgia and Poland 11; 4-5: United States and Armenia 10.

Harmanpreet and Sreejesh shortlisted for FIH awards

Press Trust of India
LAUSANNE

India captain Harmanpreet Singh was on Tuesday nominated for the Player of the Year Award by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) while P.R. Sreejesh will be in contention for the Goalkeeper of the Year honour.

Both Harmanpreet and Sreejesh played vital roles in India's splendid campaign in the Paris Olympics where the team claimed bronze.

The nominees for FIH Hockey Stars: Men: Thierry Brinkman, Joep de Mol (both Ned), Hannes Müller (Ger), Harmanpreet Singh (Ind), Zach Wallace (Eng). **Women:** Gu Bingfeng (Chi), Yibbi Jansen (Ned), Nike Lorenz (Ger), Stephanie Vanden Borre (Bel), Xan de Waard (Ned). **Goalkeeper of the Year: Men:** Pirmin Blaak (Ned), Luis Calzado (Esp), Jean-Paul Danneberg (Ger), Tomas Santiago (Arg), P.R. Sreejesh (Ind). **Women:** Cristina Cosentino (Arg), Aisling D'Hooghe (Bel), Nathalie Kubalski (Ger), Anne Veenendaal (Ned), Ye Jiao (Chn).

Plans laid out for managing the bowlers' workload, says Rohit

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

India skipper Rohit Sharma said the team management will be prudent in managing the workload of the fast bowlers ahead of a busy Test schedule in which the team will play 10 matches in the next four months.

"We will always keep that in our mind. You want your best players to play all the games, but that's not possible because there is so much cricket happening," said Rohit to a question about whether the pacers will be rotated through the five home Tests (two vs Bangladesh and three vs New Zealand).

Following the two home assignments, India travels to Australia for five Tests in November and will need its pace battery in shape for the nearly two-month-long tour.

"We have laid out some plans for managing these bowlers. But again, it all depends on their workload in these games. We will monitor that. I think we have done that pretty well. Even when we played against England, we managed to get (Jasprit) Bumrah one Test match off. We managed to give Siraj one Test match off. So it all depends on how their body feels at that particular time, what the S&C (coaches) and the physios feel about them, and when is the right time to give them a break."

Acclimatisation: Rohit feels the mini-camp in Chennai has helped the players get back into red-ball rhythm. R. RAGU

With India playing a Test after six months, the skipper felt the mini-camp the team had here over the last few days had been very useful for the players to get back into red-ball cricket rhythm.

"It's not easy when you don't play for six to eight months. But the good thing is a lot of guys in the squad are quite experienced. It is not the first time this has happened where we have not played cricket for four or five months and returned. It has happened previously as well, which is why it was important for us to have this little camp over here in Chennai," said the 38-year-old.

"We assembled here on the 12th and had a good time spending hours on the field, getting everything together. People are so experienced, and they manage themselves pretty well. And guys who have not played a lot of Test cricket went on to play the Duleep Trophy, which was good. So, in terms of preparation and readiness, I feel we are quite ready for this game and what lies ahead of us."

Have a well-rounded team to trouble India: Hathurusingha

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha remarked that the current squad is the most well-rounded and expressed confidence that his side can trouble the host.

"I think this is probably the most well-rounded team Bangladesh has produced in my previous (stint) and this time. Our balance in this series is good, and that gives us a lot more confidence that we can be competitive in this series," said Hathurusingha.

"We have got good fast bowlers and an experienced spin attack. We have batting depth for two reasons: two of our spinners are genuine batters who have Test hundreds, and then two of our wicketkeepers are also our main batters," the Sri Lankan coach added.

Commenting on the positives from the recent 2-0 win in Pakistan, the coach highlighted the team's ability to fight back from adversity more than the outcome as the big positive.

Key player: Bangladesh will bank on Miraz's all-round skills to come to the fore in the Test series against India. R. RAGU

"It certainly gives us a lot of confidence coming into this series. Not because of the outcome of that series but because of the way we played and handled certain situations. We were behind the game in both Tests but how we came back and the people who contributed at different times gives us a lot of belief for this series," he explained.

When asked if the weight of expectations can put pressure on his side, the former Sri Lanka cricketer said it was a good position to be in while taking on one of the toughest challenges in world cricket.

"Pressure is a privilege. I mean, it gives us a lot more belief and something to look forward to as well. But then we understand where we stand and our strengths and limitations."

"We are encouraged by playing the best team in the world. Coming to India and playing against India... that's the best challenge you get nowadays in cricket. So playing against the best always gives you the perception of where you stand," said Hathurusingha.

INBRIEF

Udinese rallies to post a win against Parma

Mandela Keita was sent off 19 minutes into his Parma debut as Udinese fought back from two goals down to win 3-2 and maintain its unbeaten start to the Serie A on Monday. Udinese was 0-2 down at half-time but a header from Lorenzo Lucca and a double from Florian Thauvin took the team to the top of the standings after four games.

The results: LaLiga: Rayo Vallecano 3 (Mumin 50, Ratiu 66, Lopez 90+5) bt Osasuna 1 (Garcia 27).
Serie A: Lazio 2 (Dia 5, Castellanos 20) bt Verona 1 (Tengstedt 7); Parma 2 (Del Prato 2, Bonny 43) lost to Udinese 3 (Lucca 49, F. Thauvin 68, 77).

Rajawat stumbles in first round of the China Open

Priyanshu Rajawat suffered a 21-13, 21-16 defeat to Canada's Brian Yang in the opening round of the China Open badminton at Changzhou on Tuesday. The 22-year-old Indian, who won the Orleans Master last year, went down in a 36-minute men's round-of-32 contest of the Super 1000 tournament.

Glasgow to host 2026 Commonwealth Games

The Scottish government has backed a bid for Glasgow to host a scaled-down version of the Commonwealth Games in 2026, 12 years after the city last hosted the quadrennial multi-sport event. The Games were originally slated for the Australian state of Victoria, but it withdrew as host due to rising costs. "We are delighted to hear CGS has received confirmation of support from the Government to enable them to progress with their proposal to host the Games in 2026," Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) president Chris Jenkins said in a statement on Tuesday.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: China Open, Sports 18-2 & JioCinema App, 8.30 a.m. onwards
Sri Lanka vs New Zealand: 1st Test, day 1, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 a.m.
Afghanistan vs South Africa: 1st ODI, Eurosport (SD & HD) & FanCode, 5.30 p.m.
LaLiga: gxr.world, 10.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.15 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

After playing the first ball, I felt I was very confident, says Jagadeesan

The Tamil Nadu wicketkeeper-batter feels observing international stars from close quarters serves as a learning curve

CRICKET

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
ANANTAPUR

Tamil Nadu wicketkeeper and opener N. Jagadeesan debuted in the Duleep Trophy when he stepped on the field for India-B in the second-round match versus India-C at the Rural Development Trust (RDT) Stadium B-ground here.

It was his first-ever First-Class match outside the Ranji Trophy. He was part of the South Zone squad that clinched the title last season, but didn't get to play. Even in the ongoing edition, he didn't get to play the first round.

So, how did he feel making his debut?

"I obviously was very elated about it, because you always want to be a part of a Duleep Trophy side. When I stepped onto the field for the first time, it felt good. It was a different experience. Because, personally, I knew that it was something I was doing for the first time outside of Tamil Nadu cricket," said the 28-year-old over phone on Sunday.

He looked set to bring up his maiden Duleep Trophy hundred, before he was caught behind off Anshul Kamboj on 70 (137b, 8x4). Though he was "very disappointed" by it, a takeaway for him was the way he'd overcome the debut jitters to play his natural game.

"To be honest, I was feeling a bit nervous in the beginning. It was during my keeping. But the moment I got to know nine wickets had fallen (for India-C) and probably I'd be batting soon, I think I was just focused a lot more on my batting. I was just thinking of all the (batting) routines that I do, and I wasn't nervous at all. After playing the first ball, I just felt I was very confident," he said.

Remarkable feature

Jagadeesan highlighted a remarkable feature of the ongoing Duleep Trophy edition. "We have seen a lot of Duleep Trophies, and I think this Duleep Trophy has seen a lot of international players playing the games. Playing with them in close quarters, you get to learn a lot."

Fearless: Jagadeesan sparkled with an impressive 70 for India-B on debut. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Man. City braces for Inter Milan reunion; PSG starts without stars against Girona

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agencies
MANCHESTER

Manchester City is braced for its Champions League reunion with Inter Milan at the start of an expanded tournament that will be "so tough" for the 2023 winner.

Pep Guardiola's side beat Inter 1-0 in the final two seasons ago as Rodri's goal clinched its first Champions League crown in Istanbul.

City defender Manuel Akanji is not a fan of the new model because of the extra burden it will place on players in a gruelling season which will conclude with Guardiola's men competing in the Club World Cup in the United States.

It will be fascinating to see how Guardiola goes about competing for another European title and a fifth successive Premier League crown.

New look: Shorn of galacticos, PSG will look to get its campaign off to a winning start against Girona. AFP

Rodri played his first 45 minutes of the season against Brentford after a hamstring injury suffered in the Euro 2024 final victory against England.

With England defenders John Stones and Kyle Walker also making their first starts this term, Guardiola is close to having all his stars available just in time for a hectic period.

For more than a decade, Paris Saint-Germain's Qatari owners have spent lavishly to attract big stars.

But the Champions League crown remained a distant dream.

The superstars have all now left the Parc des Princes, and it might sound paradoxical, but the club may be better equipped in its quest for continental glory.

Coach Luis Enrique insisted on moulding what he had and his project makes sense.

Enrique asked for the recruitment of less known but excellent players in every sector to create competition and have second options at every position. It could be even more crucial this season as the Champions League's new format will see more teams playing more games. PSG starts on Wednesday against Spanish side Girona.

Today's fixtures: Bologna vs Shaktar Donetsk, Sparta Prague vs RB Salzburg 10.15 p.m.; PSG vs Girona, Club Brugge vs Dortmund, Celtic vs Slovan Bratislava, Man City vs Inter, Crevna Zvezda vs Benfica, Feyenoord vs Leverkusen, Brest vs SK Sturm Graz, Atalanta vs Arsenal, Atletico Madrid vs RB Leipzig, Monaco vs Barcelona 12.30 a.m. (Thursday).

SNAPSHOTS

ICC announces equal prize money for men, women for World Cups

DUBAI: The ICC on Tuesday announced equal prize money for men and women in World Cups, starting with next month's women's T20 show-piece, the purse for which has been hiked by a staggering 225% to $7.95 million. The decision ensures that the ICC reached its prize money equity target seven years ahead of its schedule. The winner of the women's T20 World Cup will get $2.34 million, a 134% increase on the $1 million awarded to Australia when it won in South Africa in 2023.

The runner-up will receive $1.17 million, an increase of 134% in comparison to the $500,000 South Africa received for reaching the final on home soil at Newlands Cricket Ground.

The men's T20 World Cup champion India had received $2.45 million.

ICC delegation to review security for Champions Trophy in Pakistan

KARACHI: A five-member delegation of the International Cricket Council (ICC) will land here on Tuesday for an inspection visit for next year's Champions Trophy in Pakistan.

Top officials of ICC's Events and Security Departments and the General Manager Cricket and Production Manager are part of the delegation.

According to details, the ICC delegation would discuss the tentative schedule of the tournament which was prepared and sent by the Pakistan Cricket Board to them some months back.

"The tentative schedule is important because it involves the Indian team being based in Lahore and playing all their matches in the city," a well-informed source said.

A well-mapped journey from the romantic to the realistic

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Ahead of an international series in Australia, their players traditionally target the opposition verbally.

Nathan Lyon once said before the Ashes that they were looking to end some England careers. He and others have called the opposition "scared'' and worse. Ahead of the 2014 tour, Virat Kohli was called a "spoilt brat." Four years later, Ricky Ponting said that Kohli gets rattled when you get under his skin, suggesting that's what Australia should do.

Which is why Pat Cummins's statement that Australia have a 50-50 chance of winning the five-Test series in Australia beginning in November is interesting from a team that usually places their own chances at 100-0. Equally interesting is that India, who played 'English' cricket for long, now lean towards the Australian way of "hard but fair."

Triumph of pragmatism

This cultural change has been evolving for a while. From a team that laid great stress on looking attractive, India have transitioned to one prepared to win looking "ugly." It is the triumph of pragmatism over romanticism.

When England introduced cricket to India, they also brought along the peculiar habit of glorifying failure – something we were made aware of through our schooldays. Tennyson's Charge of the Light Brigade – about a disastrous episode in the Crimean War (Into The Valley of Death /Rode the Six Hundred) was required reading (and reciting). Then there was the lesson on Robert Scott, who arrived at the South Pole only to realise the race to be the first had been won by Roald Amundsen a month earlier. Scott is patron-saint of the also rans.

He and his men were killed on the return trip partly because they had loaded their sledges with such must-have South Pole accessories as Russian and Polish novels, five volumes of a study of the Napoleonic wars and 35 pounds of rocks containing Paleozoic fossil leaves. Charming, but impractical.

The notion of romantic failure seeped into cricket. Vinoo Mankad's 72 and 184 and five wickets at Lord's caused the Test to be named after him, but England won by eight wickets.

Subhash Gupte took nine wickets in an innings against the West Indies, but India lost the Test by 203 runs. Pataudi's 148 at Leeds and innings of 75 and 85 at Melbourne in the same year were heroic efforts, but India lost both these Tests.

Change of attitude

It is difficult to pinpoint when the Indian attitude began to change. Perhaps it was at Headingley in 2002 when skipper Sourav Ganguly decided to bat first on winning the toss in bowler-friendly conditions. Most Indian captains would have fielded. India ran up a 600-plus score and won.

Or perhaps the turning point had come in Kolkata the previous year when India won after following-on against Australia.

The idea of winning as against the idea of playing well and leaving the result to a higher power certainly took root, if it hadn't earlier, when Virat Kohli led in his first Test in Australia in 2014. When India began the final day's play in Adelaide, they needed 364 to win in 98 overs.

The Old India would have been happy with a draw, but "at no point was I thinking of a draw," said Kohli. When he fell for 141, his second century of the match, India needed just 60 with four wickets in hand and just under 17 overs to go. They lost that series 0-2, but a template had been set, a mindset established. India haven't lost a series to Australia since then.

Team before self

More significantly, Kohli said, "I wasn't thinking about milestones. I was only trying to calculate whom I can go after, when to accelerate. The milestone was out of the question, and that's one thing I am pleased about: that I have been able to do that in Test cricket at last. That was something new for me, and that felt good."

The captain had showed the importance of placing the team above the individual, something new in Indian cricket.

With Bangladesh on our shores for a two-Test engagement, Australia might not be on top of everybody's mind.

But this is not about specific series, but a general attitude that India have evolved that should stand them in good stead wherever and whomever they play.

Santosh Kashyap.
FILE PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUT

Kashyap to coach Indian women's football team

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Monday appointed Santosh Kashyap as the new head coach of the national senior women's team, replacing former international Chaoba Devi.

Kashyap's first assignment will be the SAFF Women's Championship in Kathmandu from October 17 to 30.

A 29-member squad will camp in Goa from September 20 in preparation for the tournament.

A former India international, Kashyap has almost a decade of coaching experience in the I-League, managing clubs like Mohun Bagan, Aizawl FC and Mumbai FC among others.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

D.Y. Patil CA-Odisha CA encounter ends in a tie

BENGALURU: Dr. D.Y. Patil CA and Odisha CA were involved in an exciting tie in the KSCA-Dr. Capt. K. Thimmappiah memorial tournament at Mysuru on Tuesday.

The scores: At Bengaluru: Madhya Pradesh CA 360 and 169 bt Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh 164 and 136 in 65.3 overs (Kumar Kartikeya 3/41, Sagar Solanki 3/40).

Mumbai CA 440 and 290/8 decl. for 42 overs (Ayush Mhatre 28, Jay Bista 50, Suryansh Shedge 71, Atharva Ankolekar 31, Shashank Attarde 47 n.o., Abhilash Shetty 3/65) drew with KSCA Secretary's XI 531 and 100/1 in 35.3 overs (Vishal Onat 51 n.o.).

At Mysuru: Dr. D.Y. Patil CA 262 and 308 tied with Odisha CA 283 and 287 in 88.1 overs (Shantanu Mishra 44, Sumit Sharma 32, Kartik Biswal 90, Anil Parida 31, Sandeep Pattanaik 25, Karsh Kothari 4/82, Umar Khan 4/86).

Thumping win for Rising Star HC

Rising Star HC whipped Metro HC 5-1 in the KSHA D.S. Murthy memorial hockey tournament on Tuesday.

The result: Rising Star HC 5 (Sudhar Raj 12, 25, 52, Karan Pal 32, Chethan 58) bt Metro HC 1 (Prakash 38).

Dakshina Kannada bags overall team title

MYSURU: Dakshina Kannada won the overall title with 402 points on the concluding day of the Karnataka State inter-district junior and U-23 athletic meet here on Tuesday. Bengaluru (Urban) was second (242) and Belagavi third with 189.

The results (winners only):
Men: U-23: 100m: Gagan L Gowda (Mys, 10.60s); **400m:** B.H. Tushar Vasant (Belagavi, 48.81s). **400m hurdles:** N. Rahul Nayaka (Mys, 54.24s); **5000m:** A.R. Rohith (B'luru, 15:03.45s, NMR, Old: 15:14.25, M.P. Vaibhav, 2023). **Decathlon:** Trilok Vodeyar (Yadgir, 5318 pts.). **Best athlete:** Gagan L. Gowda (Mys, 1008 pts., 100m) 1008 pts.
Boys: U-20: 100m: D.C. Mark Anthony (Udupi, 11.00s); **400m:** Bhuvan Pujeri (Belagavi, 48.64s). **400m hurdles:** P. Bhushan Sunil (Belagavi, 54.70s); **5000m:** S. Vijay (Belagavi, 15: 29.42s); **3000m steeplechase:** Ganapati Yellappa (UK, 9:32.56s); **decathlon:** B.S. Sanath (DK, 2375 pts.); **pole vault:** Y.M. Aditya (B'luru, NMR, 4.30m, Old: 3.80m, Yogesh, 2018). **Best Athlete:** Sushan G. Suvarna (DK, 958 pts., long jump).
U-18: 100m: P. Chiranth (Mys, 10.95s); **400m:** Sayed Sabeer (Dharwad, NMR, 48.10s, Old: 48.70s, Nihal Joel, 2017); **5km race walk:** G. Vinayak (DK, 27: 42.26s); **shot put:** H.S. Suhas (C'nagar, 15.45m); **long jump:** Rehan Kumar (DK, 6.88m); **heptathlon:** K. Chinmay (C'maglur, 3674 pts.). **Best athlete:** Sayed Sabeer (Dharwad, 974 pts., 400m).
U-16: Pentathlon: Nouman Ahamed Sharif (Chitradurga, 3181 pts.); **60m:** Ayush Prajwal (DK, 7.16s); **javelin:** N. Pushpak (Bidar, 58.38m). **Best athlete:** Ayush Prajwal (DK, 1110 pts., 60m).
U-14: Triathlon 'A': G. Kaushik P. Shetti (DK, 1886 pts.); **triathlon 'B':** B.C. Lohith Gowda (DK, 2253 pts.). **Best athlete:** B.C. Lohith Gowda (DK, triathlon 'B').
Women: U-23: 100m: S. Keerthana (Udupi, NMR, 11.86s, Old: 12.10s, Kaveri L. Patil, 2022); **400m:** Annapurna Patil (Belagavi, 1:06:00s); **400m hurdles:** R. Deekshitha (DK, 1:02.41s); **5000m:** Aradhana (B'luru, 17:57.89s); **long jump:** Priyanka (DK, 5.43m); **pole vault:** Preeti (DK, 2.80m); **heptathlon:** Shravani Satish (Belagavi, 3549 pts.); **high jump:** Pallavi Patil (Gadag, 1.70m). **Best athlete:** S. Keerthana (Udupi, 1019 pts., 100m).

U-20: 100m: Nimeksha Siddi (UK, 12.44s); **400m:** Disha Alige (C'maglur, NMR, 55.09s, Old: 55.10s, Reena George, Mys, 2012); **5000m:** Nitu Kumari (Ramnagar, 18:44.85s); **pole vault:** Bhavitha K. Shetty (DK, 2.90m); **400m hurdles:** N. Apoorva Anand (Belagavi, 1:06.82s); **3000m steeplechase:** H.M. Harshitha (Haveri, 11:32.50s); **heptathlon:** Ningamma (Raichur, 2621 pts.); **high jump:** L. Likitha (Ramnagar, 1.55m); **long jump:** Deesha Ganapathy (Mys, 5.82m). **Best athlete:** Disha Alige (C'maglur, 1010 pts., 400m).

U-18: 100m: Sthuthi P. Shetty (Udupi, 12.24s); **400m:** P. Abhigna (Shivamogga, 58.94s); **3000m race walk:** Dakshata Pat (Belagavi, 18:52.83s); **high jump:** P. Harshitha (Ramnagar, 1.55m); **javelin:** Disha Nelwade (Bidar, 36.90m); **heptathlon:** P. Harshitha (Ramnagar, 4063 pts.). **Best athlete:** Sthuthi P. Shetty (Udupi, 944 pts., 100m).

U-16: 60m: S. Suchithra (Bellary, 7.35s); **long jump:** B. Harpriya (DK, 3.78m); **pentathlon:** Avani Ganesh (Udupi, 3376 pts.). **Best athlete:** S. Suchithra (Bellary, 898 pts., 60m).
U-14: Triathlon 'A': Shashwati Suresh (B'luru, 2086 pts.); **triathlon 'B':** K.P. Adwika (DK, 2473 pts.). **Best athlete:** K.P. Adwika (DK, 2473 pts., triathlon 'B').